A Caueat o

Common Curſetor

Vagabones, ſet forth by The
vtilitie and profit of his natur
larged by the firſt Author
the tale of the ſecond tal
Crank, with the true
or, and alſo his puni
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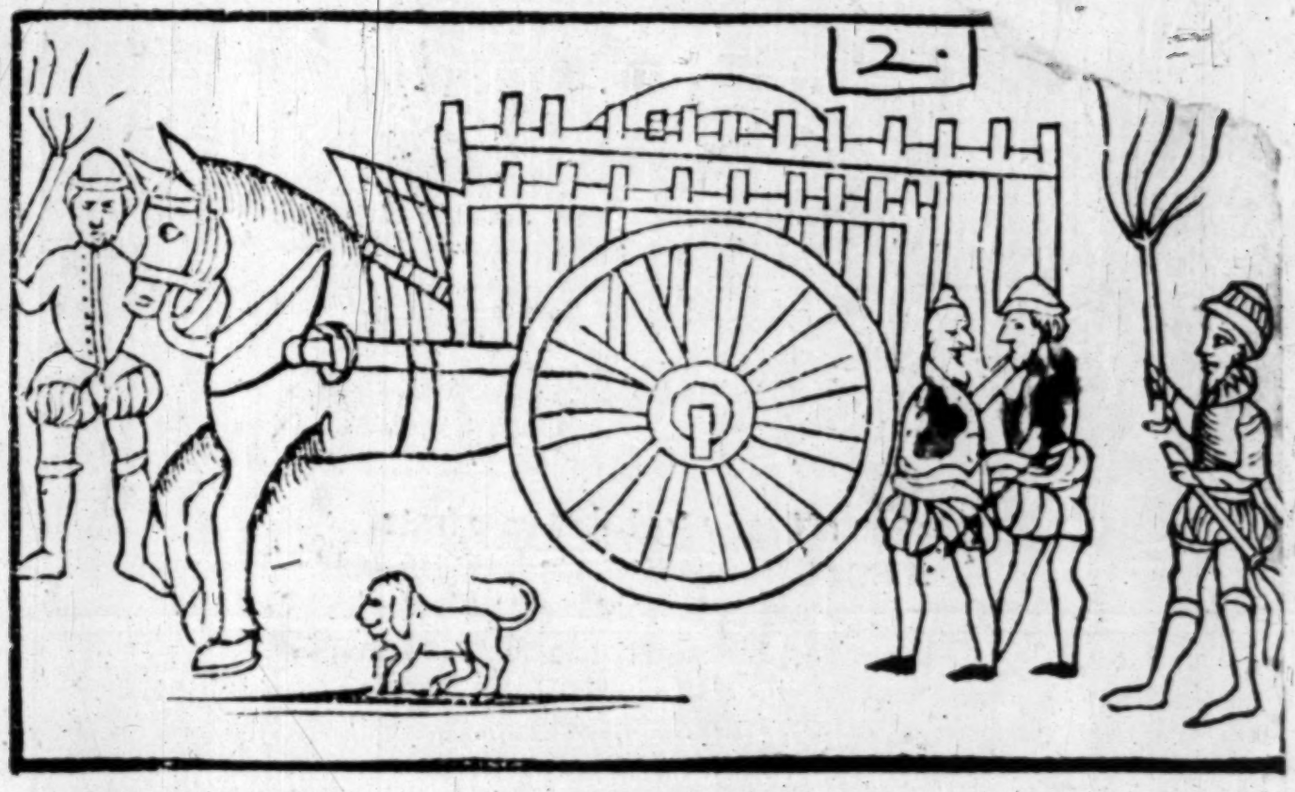
hearer or reader.

Newly Imprinted.

ANNO 1573.



This Cart at his tayle doth draw all about,
Such pylfering pickers, that to it is tyed:
The whip with his whiſkes, the bloud fetcheth out,
The Baudes for baudery, and Hores therein ryed.

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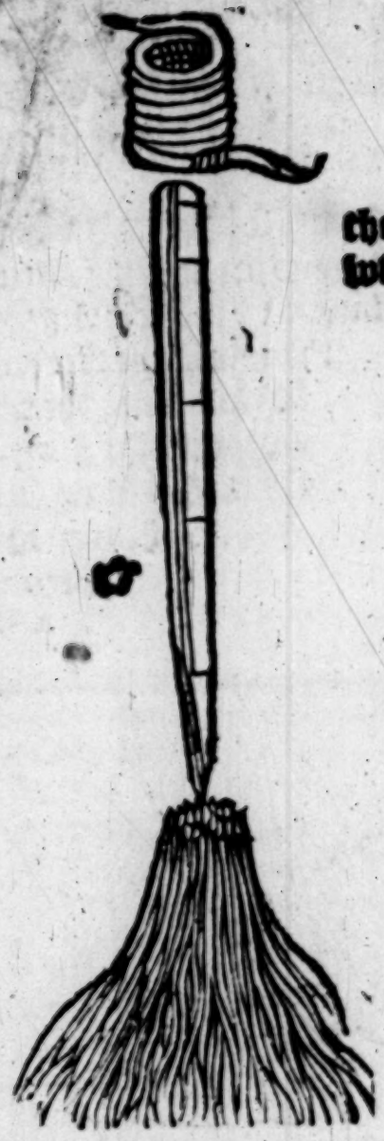
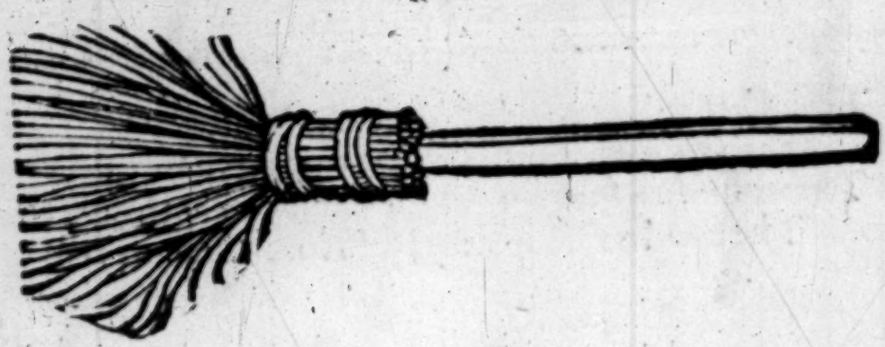


their kind,
will wind.

A beſom of byrche for babes very feete,
A long laſting lybbet for loubbes as méet:
A wyth to wynde vp that theſe will not kéepe,
Bynde all vp in one, and vſe it to ſwéepe.



To the right honorable and my ſingular good

Lady Elizabeth Countes of Shrewſbury, Thomas Harman wiſheth all ioye and perfect felicitie, here and in the world to come.

AS of Auncient and long tyme there hath been, and is now at this preſent many good godly profitable lawes and actes, made and ſet forth in this moſte noble and florishing Realme, for the reliefe, ſuccour, comforte and ſuſtentacion of the pore, nedy, impotent and miſerable creatures, beeing and inhabiting in all partes of the ſame. So is there (right honorable and myne eſpeciall good Lady) moſt holſome eſtatutes, ordinances and neceſſery lawes, made, ſet foorth and published, for the extreme punishment of all vagarants & ſturdy vagabonds as paſſeth through and by all partes of this famous yle, moſt idelly and wickedly: and I (by good experience) well vnderſtanding and conſidering your moſt tender, pitifull, gentle and noble nature, not only hauing a vigilant and mercifull eye to your poore indigēt & feeble parishioners: yea not only in the parish wher your honour moſt happely doth dwell, but alſo in others inuironing or nighe adioyning to the ſame As alſo aboundantly powring out dayly your ardent and bountifull charitie vppon all ſuch as commeth for reliefe vnto your luckly gates.

I thought it good, neceſſary, and my bounden dutye to acquaynt your goodnes with the abhominable, wicked and deteſtable behauior of all theſe rowſey, ragged rabblement of rakehelles, that vnder the pretence of great miſery, diſeaſes and other innumerable calamities, which they fayne through great hipocriſie, doe win and gayne great almes in all places where they wyly wander, to the vtter deludinge of the good geuers: deceyiing and impouerishing of al ſuch poore houſholders both ſicke and ſore, as neyther can or may walke abroade for reliefe and comfort (where in deede moſt mercy is to be shewed.) And for that, I (moſt honorable Lady) being placed as a poore gentleman, haue kept a houſe theſe twenty yeares, where vnto pouerty dyily hath and doth repayre, not without ſome reliefe as my poore callinge and habilitie may and doth extende: I haue of late yeares gathered a great ſuſpicion that all should not be well: and as the prouerbe ſayeth: *Some thing lurcke and laye hyd that dyd not playnely appeare.* For I hauing more occaſion (through ſickneſſe) to tary and remayne at home, then I haue bene accuſtomed, doe by my there abyding, talke and conferre daily with many of theſe wyly wanderars, of both ſortes, as well men and women, as boyes and gyrles: by whom I haue gathered and

derſtand their depe diſsimulation and deteſtable dealing, being maruelous ſuttle and crafty in their kinde, for not one amongeſt twenty will diſcouer, eyther declare their ſcelerous ſecretes: yet with fayr flattering wordes, money, and good chere, I haue attained to the typpe by ſuch as the meaneſt of thē, hath wādered theſe xiii. yeres, & moſt xvi. & ſom xx. and vpward, and not without fatihful promiſſe made vnto them, neuer to diſcouer their names or any thinge they shewed mee: for they would all ſaye, if the vpright men should vnderſtand thereof, they should not bee onely greeuouſly beaten, but put in daunger of their lyues, by the ſayd vpright men. There was a fewe yeares ſince a ſmall breefe ſet foorth of ſome zelous man to his countrey, of whom I knowe not, that made a little shewe of their names and vſage, and gaue a glymſing light not ſufficient to perſwade of their peuish pelting and pyncking practyſes, but well worthy of prayſe. But (good ma...me) with no leſſe trauell then good will, I haue repayred and rigged the ship of knowledge, and haue hoyſſed vp the ſayles of good fortune, that shee may ſafely paſſe about and through all parts of this noble realme, and there make porte ſale of hir wished wares, to the confuſion of their drowſey demener, and vnlawfull lāguage, pylfring, pycking, wyly wandering and lyking lechery, of all theſe rablement of raſcales that raunges about all the coſtes of the ſame, ſo that their vndeſent dolefull dealing and execrable exercyſes may appeare to all as it were in a glaſſe, that thereby the Iuſticers and Shreeues maye in their circuites be more vigilant to punishe theſe malefactores, and the Conſtables, Baylifes and housholders, ſetting aſyde all feare, ſlouth, & pitie, may bee more circumſpect in executing the charge gyuen them by the aforeſayd Iuſticers. Then will no more this raſcall rablement raunge about the countrey. Then greater reliefe may be shewed to the pouerty of eche parishe. Then shall wee keepe our horſes in our paſtures vnſtolen. Then our lynnen clothes shall and may lye ſafely on our hedges vntouched. Then shall wee not haue our clothes and linnen hooked out at our windowes, as well by daye as by night Then shall wee not haue our houſes broken vp in the nyght, as of late one of my neyghbours had and twoo great buckes of clothes ſtolen out, and moſt of the ſame fyne linnen. Then shall wee ſafely keepe our pigges and poultrey from pylfering Then shall wee ſurely paſſe by the high wayes leading to markets and faires vnharmed. Then shall our shops and bothes be vnpicked and ſpoiled. Then shall theſe vncomely companies bee diſperſed and ſet to labour for their lyuing, or haſtely hang for their demerites. Then shall it encourage a great number of gentle

men

men and others, seeinge this securitie, to set vp houses and keepe hospitalitie in the countrey, to the comfort of their neighbours, reliefe of the poore, and to the amendement of the common wealth. Then shal not sinne and wyckednes so much abounde among vs. Then will gods wrath be much the more pacified towards vs. Then shall wee not taste of so many and sundry plagues as now daylye raigneth ouer vs. And then shall this famous Empyre be in more welth and better floryshe, to the inestimable ioye and comforte of the Queenes most excellente maiestitie, whom God of his infinite goodnes, to his great glory, long and many yeares make most prosperously to raygne ouer vs, too the great felicitie of all the Peeres and nobles, and to the vnspeakable ioy, reliefe and quietnes of mynde of all hir faythfull commons and subiectes. Now, me thinketh I see how these peuish, peruerse and pestilent people begin to freat, fume, sweare, and stare at this my booke, theyr lyfe beinge layde open and apparantly paynted out, that their confusion and end draweth on apace: where as in deede if it be well wayed, it is set forth for theyr singular profyt and commoditie, for the sure sauegard of their liues here in this world, that thei shorten not the same before their time, and that by their true laboure and good lyfe, in the world to come they may saue their soules, that Christe the second person in Trinitie hath so derely bought with his most precious blouds: so that hereby I shall do them more good then they could haue deuised for themselues. For behold, their life being so manifest wicked, & so apparantly knowne: the honorable will abhorre them: the woorshipfull will reiecte them: the yeoman will sharplye tawnte them: the husband men vtterly defye them: the labouringe men bluntlye chyde them: the wemen wyth a loude exclamation wonder at them: And all children wyth clappynge handes crye out at them. I manye tymes musing with my selfe at these mischeuous myslyuers marueled when they toke their original and beginning, howe longe they haue exercised their execrable wandringe about: I thought it meete to confer with a very olde man that I was well acquainted with, whose witte and memory is maruelous for his yeares, being about the age of foure score, what hee knewe when he was yonge of these lousey lewterars. And he shewed mee that when hee was yonge, he wayted vpon a man of much worship in Kent, who dyed immediatly after the last Duke of Buckingham was beheaded, at his buryall there was suche a number of beggers, besides poore housholders dwelling there abouts, that vnneth they myght lye or stand aboute the house: then was thereto prepared for them a great and a large barne, and a great fatte oxe sod

out in Furmenty for them with bread and drinke aboundantly to furnish out the premisses, and euery person had two pence for such was the dole. VVhē night aproched the pore housholders repaired home to their houses, the other wayfaring bold beggers remained all night in the barn, and the same barne being serched with light in the night by this old man and then yonge and others, they tolde seuen score persons of men, euery of them hauing his woman, except it were two wemen that lay alone togyther for some especiall cause. Thus hauing their makes to make mery withall: the buriall was tourned to bousing and belly cheere, mourning to myrth, fasting to feasting, prayer to pastyme, and presing of paps and lamenting to lecherye. So that it may appeare this vncomly company hath had a long continuance but then nothinge geuen so much to pylferinge, pyckinge and spoling, and as far as I can learne or vnderstande by the examination of a number of them, their language which they terme peddelers Frenche or Canting, began but within these xxx. yeres or litle aboue, and that the first inuenter thereof was hanged all saue the head, for that is the finall ende of them al, or elles to dye of some filthy and horrible diseases: but much harme is done in the meane space by their continuance as some x. xii. and xvi. yeares before they be consumed, and the number of them doth dayly renew. I hope their sinne is nowe at the hyghest, and that as short and as speedy redresse wilbe for these, as hath bene of late yeares for the wretched, wyly wandering vagabonds calling and naming them selues Egyptians, deeply dissembling and long hyding and couering their depe deceiteful practises, feeding the rude common people wholly addicted and geuen to nouelties, toyes, and new inuentions, delyting them with the straungenes of the attyre of their heades, and practising paulmistrye to such as would knowe their fortunes. And to be short, all theues and hoores (as I may well write) as some haue had true experience, a number can well witnesse, and a great sort hath well felte it. And nowe (thankes bee to God) through wholsome lawes and the due execution thereof, all bee disperssed, banished, and the memory of them cleane extinguished, that when they bee once named hereafter, our Chyldren will muche marueill what kind of people they were: and so I trust shall shortly happen of these. For what thing doth chiefely cause these rowsey rake helles thus to continew and dayly increase? surely a number of wicked persons that keepe typling houses in all shiers, where they haue succoure and relefe, and what so euer they bryng, they are sure to receyue money for the same, for they sel good peny worthes. The byers haue the greatest

gayne,

gayne, yea yf they haue neither money nor ware, they wylbe trusted, their credit is much I haue taken a note of a good many of them, and will send their names and dwelling places to such Iusticers as dwelleth nere or next vnto them, that they by their good wisedomes may displace the same, and authorise such as haue honesty. I will not blot my booke with their names, because they be resident. But as for this fleeting fellowship, I haue truly set forth the most part of them, that be doers at this present with their names that they be knowne by. Also I haue placed in the end therof their leud language, callinge the same pedlers French or Canting. And now shall I ende my prologue, making true declaration (right honorable Lady) as they shall fall in order of their vntemely tryfelinge tyme, leude lyfe, and pernitious practises, trusting that the same shall neyther trouble or abashe your most tender, tymerous and pytyfull Nature, to thinke the final mede should growe vnto you for such almes so geuen. For God our mercyfull and most louing father, well knoweth your harte and good entent, the gyuer neuer wanteth his rewarde, accordinge to the sayinge of Sainct Augustin: as there is (neyther shalbe) any sinne vnpunished, euen so shall there not be any good deede vnrewarded But how comfortably speaketh Christ our Sauiour vnto vs in his gospell (giue ye and it shalbe gyuen you agayne) behold further, good Madam that for a cup of colde water, Christ hath promised a good rewarde. Nowe sainct Austine properly declareth why Christ speaketh of cold water, because the poorest man that is, shall not excuse him selfe from that charitable work, least he would peraduenture saye that he hath neyther wood, pot nor pan to warme any water with. See further what God speaketh in the mouth of his prophet Esaye. Break thy bread to him that is a hungred, he sayth not giue him a whole lofe: for peraduentute the poore man hath it not to gyue, then let him gyue a piece. This much is sayd because the poore that hath it should not be excused, now how much more then the riche. Thus you see good Madame, for your treasure here dispersed, where neede and lacke is, it shalbe heaped vp aboundantly for you in heauen, wher neither rust or moth shal corrupt or destroy the same. Vnto which triumphant place after many good happy, and fortunat yeres prosperously here dispended, you may for euer and euer, there most ioyfully remayne. Amen.

FINIS.

ALthough good Reader I wryte in playne termes, and not so playnely as truely, concerninge the matter, meaning honestly to all men, and wish them as much good, as to myne owne harte, yet as there hathe bene, so there is now, and hereafter wilbe curious heades to fynde faultes: wherefore I thought it necessary nowe at this second Impression, to acquaynt thee with a great faulte, as some taketh it, but not as I meane it, callinge these Vagabondes Cursetors, in the Intytuling of my booke, as runners or rangers about the Countrey, deriued of this Latin word (CVRRO) neyther do I write it Coorsetores with a double oo, or Cowrsetors wyth a w, which hath an other signification: is there no diuersitie betwene a gardein, and a garden, mayntenance, and maintenance: Streytes, & stretes: those that haue vnderstanding, knowe there is a great difference: who is so ignorant in these dayes, as knoweth not the meanynge of a vagabone: and if any ydell leuterar should so bee called of any man, woulde not hee thinke it bothe odyous and reprochfull: will he not shon the name: ye and where as he may and dare with bent browes, will reuenge that name of ignominy: yet this playn name vagabone is deriued as others be of Latin wordes, and now vse makes it common to all men: but let vs loke backe foure hundred yeares sithens, and let vs see whether this playne worde vagabon, was vsed or no: I beleue not, and why: because I read of no such name in the old estatuts of this realme, vnlesse it be in the margent of the Booke, or in the Table, which in the collection and printing was set in, but these were then the common names of these leud leuterars, fayrors, Robardesmen, Drawlatches, & valiant beggers. If I should haue vsed such wordes, or the same order of wryting

writing, as this realme vsed in King Henry the thyrd, or Edward the firstes time. Oh what a grose, barbarous fellowe haue we here, his writing is both homely & darke, that we had nede to haue an enterpreter, yet then it was very well and in short season, a great change we see, well this delycatage shall haue his time on the otherside, eloquence haue I none, I neuer was acquaynted with the Muses. I neuer tasted of Helycon. But accordinge to my playne order, I haue set forth this worke, simply and truly, with such vsuall wordes and termes as is amonge vs well knowne and frequented. So that as the prouerbe sayth (although truth bee blamed, it shall neuer bee shamed,) well good reader, I meane not to be tedious vnto thee but haue added fyue or sixe more tales, because some of them were donne whyle my Booke was fyrste in the presse, and as I truste I haue deserued no rebuke, for my good will, euen so I desire no prayse for my payne, coste, and trauell. But faythfully for the profyt and benefyte of my country, I haue donne it, that the whole bodye of the Realme, may see and vnderstand their leud lyfe and pernitious practises, that all maye speedely helpe to amende that is amisse. Amen say all with me.

FINIS.

A Rufflar.

THe Rufflar, bicause he is first in degre of this odious order: and is so called in a statut made for the punishment of vagabonds: In the xxvij. yeare of king Henry the eight late of most famous memory: He shalbe first placed as the worthiest of this vnruly rablemēt. And he is so called when he goeth first abroad, either he hath serued in the warres, or els he hath ben a seruing man and weary of well doing, shaking of all payne, dooth chuse him this ydle lyfe, and wretchedly wanders about the most shyres of this realme. And with stout audacity he demaundeth where he thinketh he may be bolde, and circumspecte ynough, as he seeth cause to aske charity, rufully and lamentably, that it would make a flynty hart to relent, and pitie his miserable estate, how he hath bene maymed and broused in the warres, & peraduenture some will shew you som outward wounde, which he gotte at some dronken fraye, eyther haltinge of some preuy wounde festred with a fylthy firy flankard For be well assured that the hardiest souldiers be eyther slayn or maymed, either if they escape all hassardes, and retourne home agayne, if they bee without reliefe of their friends, they wil surely desperatly robbe and steale, or eyther shortly bee hanged or miserably dye in pryson, for they be so much ashamed and disdayne to beg or aske charity, that rather they wil as desperately fight for to lyue and mainteyne them selues as manfully, and valiantly they ventred them selues in the Princes quarell. Now, these Rufflars the outcastes of seruinge men when begginge or crauinge fayles, then they picke and pylfer from other inferiour beggers that they mæte by the way, as Roges, Pallyardes, Mortes, and Doxes: yea if they mæte with a woman alone ridinge to the market, eyther old man or boye, that hee well knoweth will not resiste, such they filche and spoyle. These Rufflars, after a yeare or two at the farthest become vpright men, vnlesse thei be preuented by twinde hempe.

I had of late yeares an old man to my tenant, who customablye a great tyme, went twise in the wæke to London, eyther with fruit or with pescodes, when time serued therefore. And as hee was comming homewarde on blacke heathe, at the ende thereof nert to shooters hill, he ouertoke two Rufflars, the one manerly waiting on ẏ other, as one had ben the maister, and the other the man or seruant

cary-

carying his maister cloke: This olde man was very gladde that hée might haue their cõpany ouer the hill, because that day he had made a good market, for he had seuen shillings in his purse, and an olde angell, which this poore man had thought had not bene in his purse, for he willed his wife ouer night to take out the same Angell, and lay it vp vntill his comming home againe. And he verely thought that his wyfe had so done, which in deed forgot to doe it. Thus after salutations, had this maister rufflar entred into cõmunication with this simple olde man, who ryding softly beside them commoned of many matters. Thus feding this old man with pleasant talke, vntill they were on the toppe of the hill where these ruffiars myghte well behold the coaste about them cleare, quickly steppes vnto this poore man, and taketh holde of his horse bridell, and leadeth him into the wode, and demaundeth of him what and how much money he had in his purse. Now by my troth quoth this old man, you ar a mery gentleman, I knowe you meane not to take awaye any thinge from me, but rather to giue me some if I should aske it of you. By and by this seruant thiefe casteth the clok that he caried on his arme about this poore mans face, that he should not marke or vew them, with sharp words to deliuer quicly that he had and to confesse truly what was in his purse. This poore man then al abashed yelded and confessed he had but iust seuen shillinges in his purse and the truth is he knew of no more. This old angel was falen out of a litle purse into the botome of a great purse. Now this seuen shillings in whyt money they quickly found, thinkinge in deed that there had bene no more, yet farther groping and searching, found this old angell. And with great admiration this gentle man thefe began to blesse him, saying: good Lorde what a worlde is this, howe maye (quoth hee) a man beleue or trust in the same, see you not (quod he) this old knaue tolde me that he had but seuen shillinges, and here is more by an angell, what an old knaeu and a false knaue haue we here (quoth this rufflar) our lord haue mercy on vs, will this worlde neuer bee better, and therewith went their waye, and lefte the olde man in the wood doing him no more harme. But sorowfull sighinge this olde man returning home declared his misaduenture, with al the words and circumstances aboue shewed, whereat for the tyme was great laughing, and this poore man for his losses among his louing neighboures well considered in the ende.

¶ Vpryght man, Cap. 2.

AVpright man the second in secte of this vnsemely sort must be nert placed of these rainging rablement of rascales, some be seruing men, artificers, and laboring men, traded vpp in husbãdry: These not minding to get their liuing with the sweat of their face, but casting of all payne, will wander after their wicked maner, through the most shyres of this realme.

As Sommerset shyre, Wyll shyre. Barke shyre, Orforde shyre, Harforde shyre, Pyddiser, Eller, Suffolke, Northfolke, Suffer, Surrye, and Kent, as the chiefe and best shyres of reliefe. Yea not without punishment by stockes, whyppinges, and imprisonment, in most of these places aboue sayd: yet notwithstandinge they haue so good lyking in their lewde lecherous loyteringe, that full quickly all their punishmentes be forgotten. And repentaunce is neuer thought vpon, vntill they clyme thre trees with a ladder. These vnrewly rascales in their roylinge, disperse them selues into seuerall companies, as occasion serueth, sometime more and sometime lesse. As if they repayre to a poore husbandmans house, hee will go alone or one with him, and stoutely demaund his charitie, eyther shewing how he hath serued in the warres and their maymed, eyther that he seeketh seruice and sayth he would be gladde to take payne for hys lyuinge, although he meaneth nothing lesse: If he be offered anye meate or drinke, he vtterly refuseth scornefullye, and will nought but money, and if he espye yong pygges or poultry, he well noteth the place, & then the nert night or shortly after, he wil be sure to haue some of them, which they bringe to their stawlinge kens, whiche is their tippling houses, as well knowen to them according to the olde prouerbe (as the begger knows his dishe.) For you must vnderstand euery Typpling ale house wil neither receiue them or their wares but some certayne houses, in euery shyre, especially for that purpose, where they shalbe better welcome to them, then honester men For by such haue they most gayne, and shalbe conuayd eyther into some loft out of the way, or other secret corner not common to any other, and thither repayre at accustomed tymes their barlotes which they terme mortes and Dores, not with emty hands, for they be as skilfull in picking, trifling & filching, as the vpright men, and nothing inferior to them in all kinde of wickednes, as in other places hereafter they shalbe touched. At these forsaid pelting pevish places and vnmanerly meetings, O how the pottes walk about, their talking tounges talke at large: They bowle and bowse one to anther, and for the tyme bowsing belly chere. And after their ruysting recreatiõ

If

if there be not rome ynough in the house, they haue cleane straw in some barne or backe house nere adioining, where they couch comly togither, as it were dogge and bytche, and he that is hardyest maye haue his choyse, vnlesse for a little good maner, some wil take their owne that they haue made promyse vnto, vntill they be out of sight, and accordinge to the olde adage (out of minde) Yet these vpright men stand so much vpon their reputatiō, as thei wil in no case haue their wemen walke with them, but seperate themselues for a time, a moneth or more. And mete at fayres or great markets where they mete to pilfer and steale from stalles, shoppes, or boothes. At these fayres the vpright men, vse commonly to lye, & lingar in bye wayes by lanes, some prety way or distance frō the place, by which wayes they be assured that company passeth still to and fro, and there they will demaund with cap in hand and comly curtesye, the deuotion & charitie of ỳ people. They haue ben much lately whipped at fayrs. If thei aske at a stout yemans or farmers house his charity, thei wil goe strong as thre or foure in a company: where for feare more then good will, they often haue relefe, they seldome or neuer passe by a Iustices house, but haue by wayes, vnlesse he dwell alone, and but weakely manned, thither will they also goe strong after a slye suttle sorte, as with their armes bounde vp with kercher or lyste, hauinge wrapt about the same filthy clothes, eyther their legges in such maner bewrapped halting down right, not vnprouided of good codgils, which they cary to sustayne them, and as they fayne to kæpe dogges from them, when they come to such good gentlemens houses, if any searche be made or they suspected for pilfering clothes of hedges, or breaking of houses which they commonly do, when the owners bee eyther at the market, church, or other wayes occupied about their busines, eyther robbe some sely man or woman by the bye way, as many times they do. Then they bygh them into wodes, great thickets, and other rouffe corners where they lye lurking three or foure dayes togyther, and haue meate and drinke brought them by theyr mortes and Doxes: and whyle they thus lye bidden in couert, in the night they be not idle, neither as ỳ common saying is (wel occupied) for then as the wyly fore, creping out of his den, seketh his praye for pultery, so do these for linnen and any thing else worth money, that lyeth about or nere a house. As sometime a whole buck of clothes caried away at a time. When they haue a greatter booty, then they may cary away quickly to their stawlinge kennes as is aboue said, they will byde the same for a thre dayes in some thicke, couert and

in the night time cary the same lyke good water Spannels to their forsayd houses, to whom they will discouer where or in what places they had the same where the markes shalbe picked out cleane, & conuayd craftely far of to sell if the mā or woman of the house want money themselues: and if these vpright men haue nether mony nor wares, at these houses they shalbe trusted for their vitalles and it amount to twenty or thirty shillinges: yea if it fortune any of these vpright men to be taken, either suspected or charged with felony or pety bypbrye don at such a time or such a place, he will saye he was in his hostes house. And if the mā or wyfe of that house be examined by an officer, they boldely vouche that they lodged him such a time, whereby the truth cannot apeare. And if they chance to be retained into seruice, through their lamentable wordes, with any welthy mā they will tary but a small time, eyther robbing his maister, or some of his fellowes. And some of them vseth this policy, that although they trauaill into all these shyres aboue said, yit will thei haue good credite, especially in one shyre, where at diuers good farmers houses they be well knowne, wher thei worke a moneth in a place or more and will for that time behaue themselues very honestly & paynfully. And may at any time for their good vsage haue woorke of them, and to these at a dead lift or last refuge, thei may safely repayre vnto, & be welcom, when in other places for a knacke of knauery that they haue plaid thei dare not tary. These vpright mē will seldom or neuer want, for what is gotten by any Porte or Dore, if it please him hee doth commaund the same: and if he mete any begger, whether he be sturdy or impotent, he will demaund of him whether euer bee was stalled to the roge or no. If he say he was, he will know of whom, & his name ẏ stalled him. And if he be not learnedly able to shew him the whole circumstance thereof, he will spoyle him of his money, either of his best garment if it be worth any money, and haue him to the bowsing ken: which is, to some typpling house nere adioyninge and layeth ther to gage the best thing that he hath for twenty pence or two shillings: this man obeyeth for feare of beating. Then dooth this vpright man call for a gage of bowse, which is a quarte potte of drinke and powres the same vpon his pelo pate, adding these words I. C. P. do stalle thee W. T. to the Roge, and that from hencefoorth it shalbe lawfull for thee to Cant, that is to aske or begge for thi liuing in al places. Here you see ẏ the vpright man is of gret auctority for all sortes of beggers are obedient to his hests, and surmounteth all tothers in pylfring and stealing. ¶ I lately had standinge in my

well

wel house which standeth on the backeside of my house a great cawdron of copper being then full of water, hauinge in the same halfe a dosen of pewter dishes well marked and stamped wͭ the conizance of my armes: which beeinge well noted when they were taken out were set a side, the water powred out, and my caudron taken away, being of such bignes that one man vnlesse he wer of great strength was not able far to cary the same. Notwithstandinge the same was one night within this two yeares, conuayed more then half a myle from my house, into a commen or heth, and ther bestowed in a gret firbushe. I then immediatly the next day sent one of my men to Lōdon and there gaue warning in Southwark, Kent strete, & Barme sey streat, to al the Tynckars there dwelling, that if any such Caudron came thither to be sold, the bringar therof should be stayed, and promised twenty shillings for a reward. I gaue also intelligence to the watermen that kept the ferres that no such vessell should be eyther conueyed to London, or into Esser, promising the lyke reward, to haue vnderstanding therof. This my doing was well vnderstand in many places about, and that the feare of espying so troubled the conscience of the stealer, that my Caudron lay vntouched in ẏ thicke firbushe more then halfe a yere: after which by a great chaunce was found by hunters for conneis: for one chaunced to runne into ẏ same bushe where my caudron was, and being perceyued, one thrust hys staffe into the same bushe & hyt my caudron a great blow, the sound whereof dyd cause the man to thinke and hope that there was some great treasure hidden, wherby he thought to be the better whyle hée lyued. And in further searching he found my Caudron, so had I the same agayn vnloked for.

¶ A Hoker or Anglear. Cap. 3.

These hokers or Anglers be perillous and most wicked knaues, and be deriued or procede forth from the vpright men, they commonly goe in fræse yerkynes and gally sloppes, pointeth beneth the knée: these when they practise their pilfryng, it is al by night, for as they walk a day times from house to house to demaund charitie, thei vigilantly mark where, or in what place they may attayne to there pray, casting their eyes vp to euery window, wel noting what they sée ther, whether apparell or linnen, hanging neere vnto the sayde wyndows, and that wil they be sure to haue ẏ next night folowing, for they customably cary with them a staffe of v. or vi. foote long, in which, within one inch of ẏ top therof is a little hole bored through:

in which hole they putte an yron hoke, and with the same they will pluck vnto them quikly any thing ẏ thei may reach therwith, which hoke in the day time they couertly cary about thē, and is neuer sene or taken out till they come to the place where they worke their feat, such haue I sene at my house & haue oft talked with them and haue handled their staues not thē vnderstanding to what vse or intent thei serued, although I had and perceyued by their talke and behauiour great likelihode of euill suspition in them, they wil either leane vpon their staffe to hyde the hole therof, when they talk with you, or hold their hande vpon the hole, and what stuffe either wollen or linnen, they thus hoke out, thei neuer cary the same forthwith to their stauling kens, but hides the same a til dates in some secret corner, & after conucis the same to their houses aboue said where their host or hostys giueth them money for the same but half the value that it is worth, or els their Dores shal a far of sell the same at the like houses. I was credibly informed that a hoker came to a farmers house in the dead of the night, and putting a backe a drawe windowe of a low chamber, the bed standing hard by the said window, in whiche lay thre persons, a man and two bigge boyes: this hoker wyth hys staffe plucked of their garments which lay vpon them to kepe them warme, with the coueriet and shete, and left them lying a slepe naked saving their shyrtes, and had away all cleane & neuer could vnderstand where it became. I verely suppose that when they were wel waked with cold, they surely thought that Robin good fellow, (according to the old saying) had bene with them that night.

A Roge. Cap. 4.

A Roge is neither so stout or hardy as the vpryght man: Many of them will go fayntly and looke piteously when they see eyther mete any person, hauing a kercher as white as my shoes tyed about their head, with a short staffe in their hand, halting although they nede not, requiring almes of such as thei mete or to what house thei shal come. But you may easely perceue by their coloure ẏ they cary both helth & hipocrisy about them, wherby they get gain, when others want that cannot fayne and dissemble. Others there be that walke sturdely about ẏ coūtry, & faineth to seke a brother or kinsmā of his, dwelling within som part of ẏ shire either that he hath a letter to deliuer to som honest housholder dwelling out of an other shyre, and wil shewe you the same fayre sealed, with the superscription to

the

the party he speaketh of, because you shall not thinke him to runne idelly about the countrey, either haue they this shifte, they will carry a certificat or paspoꝛt about them from some Justicer of the peace, with his hand and seale vnto the same, how hee hath bene whipped and punished foꝛ a bagabonde accoꝛding to the lawes of this realme and that he must returne to T. where he was boꝛne oꝛ last dwelt, by a certayn day limited in the same, which shalbe a good long day, And all this fayned, because without feare they woulde wickedly wander, and wil renewe the same where oꝛ when it pleaseth them: foꝛ they haue of their affinitie that can wꝛite and reade. These also will picke and steale as the vpꝛight men, and hath their women and mœtings at places appoynted, and nothing to them inferiour in all kind of knauery There be of these Roges Curtales, wearing shoꝛt clokes, that will change their apparell as occasion serueth, and their end is eyther hanging, which they call Truning in their language, oꝛ dye miserably of the pockes

¶ There was not long sithens two Roges that always did associat themselues togither & would neuer seperat themselues vnles it were foꝛ some especiall causes, foꝛ thei were swoꝛn bꝛothers, & were both of one age and much like of fauoꝛ: these two traueling into east kent, resoꝛted vnto an ale house, being wearied with traueling, saluting with shoꝛt curtesie (when they came into the house) such as thei saw sitting there: in which cõpany was the parson of the parish, and calling foꝛ a pot of the best ale, sat down at the tables end: the liquoꝛ liked them so well that they had pot vpon pot, & sometime foꝛ a litle good maner would dꝛink and offer the cup to such as thei best fancied and to be shoꝛt they sat out al the cõpany, foꝛ ech man departed home about their busines: when they had well refreshed themselues, then these rowsy roges requested the good man of the house with his wife to sit down and dꝛink with them: of whom thei inquired what pꝛiest the same was and wher he dwelt, then thei fayning that they had an vncle a pꝛiest, & that he should dwell in these partes which by al pꝛesumptions it should be he, and that they came of purpose to speak vñ him, but bicause thei had not seen him sithens they were fiue yeares old, they durst not be bold to take acquaintãce of him vntil thei wer farther instructed of the truth, and began to inquire of his name, & how long he had dwelt there, and how far his house was of from y place they were in, the good wyfe of the house, thinkinge them honest men without discrit. bicause they so far enquired of their kinsman, was but of a good zelous natural intent, shewed them there

fully that he was an honest man and wel beloued in the parish and of good welth, and had ben there resident xv. yeares at the least, but saith she, are you both brothers? yea surely said they, wee haue bene both in one belly and were twinnes: mercy God quoth this foliche woman, it may well be, for ye be not much vnlike, & went vnto her hall window calling these yong men vnto her, & looking out pointed with her finger and shewed them the house standing alone, no house neere the same by almost a quarter of a myle, that sayd she is your vncles house: nay saith one of them he is not onely my vncle, but also my Godfather, it may well be quoth shee, nature will bind him to bee the better vnto you: well quod they, we be weary & mean not to trouble our vncle to night, but to morrow god willinge, wee will see him and do our duty. But I pray you doth our vncle occuppe hus bandry, what company hath he in his house? alas saith shee, but one old woman & a boy. he hath no occupying at all: truth q̄ this good wife you be mad mē, go to him this night for he hath better lodging for you then I haue, and yit I speak folishly against myne own profit, for by your taring here I should gayn ȳ more by you. Now by my troth q̄ one of them, we thank you good hostes for your holsom coūcell, and we meane to do as you will vs, we will pause a whyle and by that tyme it wilbe almost night, and I pray you geue vs a reckening (so manerly paying for that they tooke) bad their hoste & hostes farewell with taking leaue of the cup; marched merely out of the doores towards this parsons house, vewed the same well roūd about and passed by two bowshotes of into a yong wood where they laye consulting what they should do vntill midnight. quoth one of them (of sharper wyt and subtiller then the other) to his fellow, thou sest that this house is stone walled about, and that we cannot wel break in, in any part therof: thou sest also that the windowes be thicke of mullions, that there is no kreeping in betwene, wherfore we must of necessity vse some pollicy when strength will not serue. I haue a horse locke here about me, saith he, and this I hope shall serue oure turne: so when it was about vii of the clock they came to the house & lurked neere vnto his chamber windowe: the dog of the house barked a good, that with the noise, this priest waketh out of his sleepe, & began to cough and hem: then one of these rogues steps forth neerer the windoow & maketh a rufull & pitifull noyse, requiring for Christ sake some relief that was both hungry & thirsty and was like to lye without the doores all night and starue for cold, vnles he were relæued by him with some small piece of money. Where dwellest thou,

q̄ this parſon: alas ſyr ſayth this roge I haue ſmall dwelling, and haue come out of my way: & I ſhould now ſaith he, go to any towne now at this tyme of night, they would ſet me in the ſtockes and puniſh me: well quoth this pitifull parſon, away from my houſe, eyther lye in ſome of my outhouſes vntill the morning and hold here is a couple of pence for thee. A God reward you, quoth this roge, & in heauen may you find it. The parſon openeth his wicket & thruſteth out his arme to giue his almes to this roge that came whining to receiue it, and quickly taketh hold of his hand and calleth his fellow to him. which was redy at hand with the horſe lock & clappeth the ſame about the wreſt of his arme that the mullions ſtanding ſo cloſe togither for ſtrēgth, that for his lyfe he could not pluck in his arme again, and made him beleue, vnles he would at the leaſt giue them iii. pound, they would ſmite of his arme from the body, ſo that this poore parſon in feare to loſe his hand, called vp his old woman that lay in the loft ouer him, and willed her to take out all the money he had, which was iiii. markes, which he ſaid was all ỳ money in his houſe, for he had lent vi. poūd to one of his neighbors not iiii. dayes before. Wel q̄ they, maiſter parſon if you haue no more, vpon this condition we will take of the locke that you wil drink iii. pence for our ſakes to morow at the ale houſe where he found you & thāk the good wife for the good chere ſhe made vs: he promiſed faithfully that he would ſo do: ſo they toke of the lock and went their way ſo far ere it was day, that the parſon couldc neuer haue any vnderſtanding more of them: now this parſon ſorowfully ſlumberinge ỳ night betweene feare and hope, though it was but folly to make two ſorows of one, he vſed cōtentation for his remedy, not forgettyng in the morning to performe his promiſe but wēt betimes to his neighbour that kept tipling, and aſked angerly where the ſame two men were that drank with her yeſter daye: which two men q̄ this good wyfe: the ſtraungers that came in, when I was at your houſe with my neighbors yeſterday: what your neuewes q̄ ſhe. My neuews q̄ this parſon, I trow thou art mad. Nay by god q̄ this good wife, as ſober as you, for they told me faithfully that you were their vncle, but in faith are you not ſo in dæd, for by my troth they are ſtraungers to me, I neuer ſaw them before. Out vpon them q̄ the parſon, they be falſe theues, & this night they cōpelled me to giue them all the money in my houſe. Benedicite q̄ this good wife, & haue they ſo in dæd: as I ſhall anſwere before god, one of them told me beſides ỳ you were godfather to him and that he truſted to haue your bleſſinge be-

fore he departed, what did he, quoth this parson, a halter blesse him for me, me thinketh by the masse by your countenance you loked so wistly when you came in quoth this good wyfe, that something was amis: I vse not to iest quoth this parson when I speak so earnestly, why all your sorowes goe with it quoth this good wife, & sit downe here and I will fil a freshe pot of ale to make you mery again, yes saith this parson fil in & giue me som meat, for they made me swear and promise them faithfully that I should drinke vij pence with you this day: what did they quoth she, nowe by the mary masse they bee mery knaues, I warrant you they meane to bye no lande with your money: but how could they come vnto you in the nigot, your doores being shut fast: your house is very strong, then this parson shewed her all the whole circumstance how he gaue the his almes, out at the window, they made such lamentable crye, that it pitied him at the hart, for he sawe but one when he put out his hand at the window, be ruled by me quoth this good wyfe, wherein quoth this parson, by by troth neuer speake more of it when they shal vnderstand of it in the parish they will but laugh you to skorne, why then quoth this parson, the deuill goe with it, and their an ende.

¶ A Wylde Roge. Cap. v.

A Wilde Roge is he that is borne a Roge, he is more subtill and more gyuen by nature to all kind of knauery then the other, as beastly begotten in barn or bushes, and from his infancy traded vp in trechery: yea and before ryp enes of yeares doth permit, wallowing in lewd lechery, but that is counted amongst them no sin. For this is their custome, that when they mete in barne at night, euery one getteth a mate to lye withall, and there chaunce to be twentye in a company, as their is sometime more, and sometime lesse: for to one man that goeth abroad, there ar at the least two women, which neuer make it straunge when they bee called, although thee neuer knew him before. Then when the day doth appeare, hee rouses him vp and shakes his eares, and away wandering where he maye gette ought to the hurt of others. Yet before he skyppeth out of his couche and departeth from his darling (if he like her well) he will appoynte her where to mete shortly after, with a warning to worke warely for some chetes, that their meeting might be the merier.

Not long sithens, a wild roge chaunced to mete a pore neighbor of mine who for honesty & good nature surmounteth many. This pore man riding homeward from London, where he had made his mar-

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ket: this roge demaunded a peny for Gods sake to keepe him a true man. This simple man beholding him wel, and saw he was of tall personage with a good quarter staffe in his hand, it much pitied him as he sayd to see him want, for he was well able to serue his prince in the warres. Thus being moued with pitie, loked in his purse too find out a peny, and in loking for the same, he plucked out viii. shillings in whyt money, and raked therin to find a single peny, and at the last finding one, doth offer the same to this wild roge but he seeing so much money in this simple mans hand, beeing striken to the hart with a couetous desire, bid him forthwith to deliuer all that hee had, or else he would with his staffe beat out his braynes: for it was not a peny would nowe quench his thirst seeing so much as he dyd: thus swallowing his spittell gredely down, spoyled this poore man of all the money that hee had, and lept ouer the hedge into a thicke wood, and went his way as merely as this good simple man came home sorowfully. I once rebuking a wilde Roge, because he wente idelly about: he shewed me that he was a begger by inheritance, his Grandfather was a begger, his father was one, and he must needs be one by good reason.

A Prigger of Prauncers. Cap. 6.

A Prigger of Prauncers be horse stealers, for to prigge signifieth in their language to steale, & a Prauncer is a horse, so being put together, the matter was playn. These go commonly in Jerkins of leather or of whyt fresse, & cary little wands in their hands, and wil walke through grounds and pastures, to search and see horses mete for their purpose, and if they chaunce to be met & asked by the owners of the ground what they make there, they fayne straygbte that they haue lost their way and desire to be instructed the best waye to such a place. These will also repayre to gentlemens houses & aske their charitie and will offer their seruice. And if you aske them what they can doe, they will say that they can kepe two or three Geldings and wayte vpon a Gentleman. These haue also their women that walking from them in other places, marke where and what they see abroade, and shewth these Priggars therof, whē they meet, which is within a weeke or two, and looke where they steale any thinge, they conuey the same at the least three score myles of or more.

¶ There was a Gentleman, a very friend of myne, ryding from London homeward into Kent, hauinge with in three myles of hys house businesse, alyghted of his horse, and his man also, in a prety

village, where diuers houses were, and looked about him where he might haue a conuenient person to walke his horse, because hee would speake wᵗ a Farmer that dwelt on the backe side of the sayde village, litle aboue a quarter of a myle from the place where he lighted and had his man to waight vpon him, as it was mete for his calinge, espying a Priggar there standing, thinking the same to dwel there, charging this pretty prigging person to walke his horse well, and that they might not stand still for taking of colde, and at his returne (which he said should not be longe) he would giue him a peny to drinke, and so went about his business. This pelting Priggar, proud of his praye, walketh his horse vp and downe, till hee sawe the Gentleman out of sight, and leapes him into the saddell, and away he goeth a mayne. This Gentleman returninge, and finding not his horses, sent his man to the one end of the village, & he went himselfe vnto the other end, and enquired as he went for his horses that were walked, and began somewhat to suspecte, because neither he nor his man could see nor find him. Then this getleman diligently enquired of thre or foure town dwellers there, whether any such person, declaring his stature, age, apparell, with so many linaments of his body as he could call to remembrance. And vna voce all sayde that no such man dwelt in their street, neither in the parish that they knew of, but some did wel remember that such a one they saw there lyrking and huggering twoo houres before the Gentleman came thither and a straunger to them. I had thought quoth this Gentleman, he had here dwelled, and marched home manerly in his boots far from the place he dwelt not. I suppose at his comming home he sent such wayes as he suspected or thought mete to searche for thys Prigger, but hetherto he neuer hard any tydings againe of his palfreys. I had the best gelding stolen out of my pasture that I had amongst others, whyle this booke was fil a printing.

¶ Pallyard. Cap. 7.

These Palliards be called also Clapperdogens, these go wit patched clokes, & haue their Ports with them which they cal wiues: and if he goe to one house to aske his almes, his wyfe shall go to another, for what they get, as bread, cheese, malte, and woll, they sel the same for redy money, for so they get more, and if they went togither, although they be thus deuided in the daye, yet they meete some at night: if they chaunce to come to some gentilmans house standinge alone,

alone, and be demaunded whether they be man and wyfe, and if he perceyue that any doubteth therof, he sheweth them a Testimonial with the ministers name and others of the same parishe, naminge a parish in some shyre far distant from the place where he sheweth the same. This writing he carieth to salue that sore: There be many Irish men that go about with counterfeat licences, and if they perceyue you will straitly examin them, they will immediatly say they can speake no English.

¶ Farther vnderstand for truth, that the worst and wickedst of all this beastly generation ar scarce comparable to these prating pallyards. All for ỳ most part of these will either lay to their legs an herb called Spurrewort, either Arsnicke, which is called Ratesbane. The nature of this Spurrewort will rayse a great blyster in a night vpõ the foundest part of his body, and if ỳ same be taken away, it will dry vp again and no harme. But this Arsnick will so poyson the same legge or sore, that it wil euer after be incurable, this do thei for gayn and to be pitied. The most of these that walke about be walchmen.

A Frater. Cap. 8.

SOme of these Fraters wil cary black bores at their girdel, wherin they haue a brefe of the Quenes maiesties letters patents given to such poore spittle house for the relief of ỳ poore there, whiche brief is a coppie of the letters patents, & vtterly fained, if it be in paper or in parchment without the great seal: also if ỳ same brief be in print, it is also of authoritie For ỳ printers wil sæ & well vnderstãd before it com in presse, that the same is lawful. Also I am credibly informed that the chief Proctors of many of these houses, that seldome trauel abrod thẽselues, but haue their factors to gather for thẽ, which lyke very slenderly to the impotent & miserable creatures cõmitted to their charge & die for wãt of cherishig whereas they & their wiues are wel crãmed & cloted & wil haue of the best And the founders of euery such house, or the chief of the parish wher they be, would better sæ vnto these proctors, that they might do their duty, thei should be wel spokẽ of here, and in the world to come aboũdantly therfore rewarded. I had of late an honest man and of good wealth, repayred to my house to common with me about certayne affaires. I inuited the same to dinner, and dinner being done, I demaunded of him some newes of these parties were hee dwelt. Thankes bee to God syr (saith he) all is well & good now. Now (quoth I) this same nawe

declareth ꝑ some things of late hath not bene wel. Yes syr (qꝺ he) the matter is not great, I had thought I should haue bene well beaten within this seuenth night: how so (quoth I) mary syr sayd hee, I am Constable for fault of a better, and was commaunded by the Iustices to watch. The watch being set, I toke an honest man one of my neighbours with me and went vp to the end of the town as farre as the spittle house: at which house I heard a great noyse, and drawing neere stode close vnder the wall, and this was at one of the clocke after midnight; where he harde swearinge, pratinge, and wagers laying, and the pot apace walking, and xl. pence gaged vpon a matche of wrastling, pitching of the barre, and casting of the sledge: and out they go in a fustian fume into the back syde, where was a great Artilery, and there fell to pitching of the bar, being three to three: the Moone did shyne bright, the Constable with his neighboure might see and beholde al that was done. And howe the wyfe of the house was rosting of a Pyg, whyle her gestes were in their match. At the last they conld not agree vpon a caste and fell at woordes, and from woordes to blowes. The Constable wyth his fellowe runnes vntoo them to parte them, and in the parting lyckes a dyre blowe or two. Then the noyse increased, the Constable would haue had them too the stockes. The wyfe of the house runnes out with hir good man to intreat the Constable for her gestes, and leaues the Pyg at the fyre alone. In commeth two or three of the nert neighboures being waked with this noyse, and into the house they come and fynde none therein but the Pygge well rosted, and carieth the same away with them, spit and all, with such breade and drinke also as stoode vppon the table. When the goodman and the good wyfe of the house had intreated and pacified the Constable, shewinge vnto him that they were Proctors and Factors, all of Spyttle houses, and that they tarryed there but to breake their faste, and woulde ryde away immediately after, for they had farre to goe, and therefore mente to ryde so earely. And commynge into their house agayn, fyndinge the Pygge with bread and drinke al gone, made a great exclamation, for they knew not who had the same.

The Constable returning and hearing the lamentable woords of the good wyfe how she had lost both meate and drinke, and sawe it was so in deed, he laughed in his sleue, and commaunded her to dresse no more at vnlawfull houres for any gestes: for he thought it better bestowed vpon those smel feastes his pore neighbours, then vppon suche sturdye Lubbares. The nert morninge betymes, the

spitte

the ſpitte and pottes were ſet at the Spittle houſe doore for the owner? Thus were theſe Fautours begyled of their breakfaſt, and one of them had well beaten an other: and by my troth (quoth this Conſtable) I was glad when I was well ryd of them. Why quoth I, could they caſt the barre and ſledge well? I will tell you ſyr (quoth he) you know there hath bene many games this ſommer, I thinck verely, that if ſome of theſe Lubbars had bene there, and practyſed amongeſt others. I beleue they would haue caryed awaye the beſt games: for they were ſo ſtronge and ſturdy that I was not able to ſtand in their handes. Well (quoth I) at theſe games you ſpeak of, both legges and armes be tryed: yea (quoth this officer, they be wicked men. I haue ſeene ſome of them ſithens with cloutes bounde aboute their legges, and halting with their ſtaffe in their handes. Wherefore ſome of them (by God) be all naught.

¶ Abraham man. Cap. 9.

THeſe Abraham men be thoſe that fayn themſelues to haue bene mad, and haue bene kept either in Bethelem, or in ſome other pryſon a good time, and not one amongſt twenty that euer came in priſon for any ſuch cauſe: yet will they ſay how pitifully and moſte extreemely they haue bene beaten and dealt with all. Some of theſe be mery and very pleaſaunt, they will daunce and ſing, ſome others be as colde and reaſonable to talke withall. Theſe begge money, eyther when they come at Farmoures houſes, they will demaund Baken, eyther cheeſe, or Wooll or any thinge that is worth money, and if they eſpye ſmall company within, they will with fierce countenaunce demaunde ſomewhat. Where for feare the maydes will giue them largely to be ryd of them.

¶ If they may conuenientlye come by any cheate, they will picke and ſteale as the vpright man or Roge, poultrey or lynnen. And all women that wander, be at their commaundement. Of all that euer I ſawe of this kinde, one naming him ſelfe Stradlinge, is the craftieſt and moſte diſſemblingeſt knaue. He is able wyth hys tounge and vſage, to deceyue and abuſe the wyſeſt man that is. And ſurely for the proporcion of his body, with euery member therunto appertayning, it cannot be amended But as the prouerbe is (God hath done his part.) This Stradling ſayth he was the Lorde Sturtons man, and when he was executed for very penſiuenes of minde

be fell out of his witte, and so continued a yeare after and more, and that with the very greefe and feare, he was taken with a maruelous palsey, that both head and handes will shake when he talketh with any and that apace or faste, whereby he is much pytied, and getteth greatly. And if I hadde not demaunded of others both men and women, that commonly walketh as he doth, and knowne by them his deepe dissimulation, I neuer had vnderstande the same. And thus I end with these kinde of vagabondes.

A freshe water Mariner or Whip-iacke. Cap. 10.

THese fresh water Mariners, their shippes were drowned in the playne of Salisbury. These kinde of Caterpillers, counterfet great losses on the sea, these be some Western men, and moste bee Irish men. These will runne about the countrey with a counterfet licence, sayninge eyther shipwracke, or spoyled by Pyrates, neare the coaste of Cornwall or Deuonshyre and set a lande at some hauen towne there, hauing a large and formall writinge, as is aboue sayd, with the names and seales of such men of woorshippe at the least foure or fiue as dwelleth neare or next to the place where they fayne their landing. And neare to those shyeres will they not begge vntill they come into Wylshyre, Hamshyre, Barkeshyre, Oxfordshyre, Harford shyre, Middelser, and to London, and downe by the ryuer to seeke for their shippe and goods that they neuer hadde, then passe they through Surrey, Suffer, by the sea coastes, & so into kent, demaunding almes to bringe them home to their countrey.

Sometime they counterfet the seale of the Admiraltie, I haue diuers times taken awaye from them their licences of bothe sortes, with suche money as they haue gathered, and haue confiscated the same to the pouertie nighe adioyninge to me. And they will not be longe without an other, for at any good Towne they will renewe the same. Once with muche threatninge and fayre promises, I required to knowe of one companye who made their licence. And they sware that they bought the same at Portsmouth of a Mariner there, and it cost them two shillings, with such warrants to bee so good and effectual, that if any of the best men of lawe or learned aboute London shoulde peruse the same, they were able to fynde no faute therewith, but would assuredly allow the same.

These

These two pictures lyuely set out,
One body and soule, God send him more grace:
This monstrous dissembler, a Cranke all about.
Uncomly coueting of eche to imbrace,
Money or wares, as he made his race.
And sometyme a Mariner, and a seruing man:
Or els an artificer, as he would fayne than.
Such shiftes he vsed, being well tryed,
Abandoning labour till he was espyed:
Conding punishment for his dissimulation,
He surely receyued with much exclamation.

A counterfet Cranke. Cap. vi.

These that do counterfet the Cranke be yong knaues and yonge harlots, that deeply dissemble the falling sickenes. For the Crank in their language is the fallinge euill. I haue seene some of these with fayre writinges testimonials, with the names and seales of some men of worship in Shropshyre, and in other shires farre of, that I haue wel known and haue taken the same from them. Many of these do go without writings, and will go halfe naked, and looke most pitiously. And if any clothes be giuen them they immediately sell the same, for weare it they will not, because they would be the more pitied, and weare filthy clothes on their heads, and neuer goe without a peece of whyte sope about them, which if they see cause or present gayn, they will priuely conuay the same into their mouth, & so worke the same there, that they will fome as it were a Boze, and marueliously for a tyme torment them selues, and thus deceiue they the common people, and gayne much. These haue commonly their harlots as the other.

¶ Uppon Alhallonday in the morning last Anno Domini 1566. for my boke was halfe printed, I meane the first impression, there came earely in the morninge a counterfet Cranke vnder my lodginge at the whyte Fryers within the cloyster, in a little yard or court wher abouts lay two or thre great Ladyes, being without the liberties of London, wherby he hoped for the greatter gayne: this Cranke there lamentably lamenting, and pitifully crying to be relieued, declared to diuers there his paynful and miserable disease. I being ryssen and not halfe ready, hard his dolful words and ruful mournings, hearing him name the fallen sickenes, thought assuredlye to my selfe, that hee was a depe dessembler: so comming out at a sodayne, and beholding his ougly and yrksome attyre, his lothsom and horrible cõuntinance, it made me in a marueilous perplexity what to think of him, whether it were fained or trueth, for after this maner went he: he was naked from ỹ waist vpward, sauing he had an old Ierkin of leather, patched and that was lose about him, that all his bodye lay out bare a filthy foul cloth he ware on his head, being cut for the purpose, hauing a narow place to put out his face, wᵗ a bauer made to trosse vp his beard, and a string that tyed the same down close about his necke, with an old felt hat which he still caried in his hand, to receyue the charitye and deuotion of the people, for that would he hold out from him, hauing his face from the eyes downward, all smerd with fresh bloud,

as

as though he had new fallen, and bin tormented with his paynefull panges, his terken being all berayde with durte and myre, and hys harte and hosen also, as though he hée hadde wallowed in the myer: surely the sight was monstrous and terrible. I called him vnto me and demaunded of him what he ayled. A good maister, quoth he, I haue the grœuous and payneful disease called the falling sickenes: why, quoth I, how commeth thy terkin, hose and hat so berayd wyth durt and myer, and thy skin also? A good maister I fell down on the backesyde here in a fowle lane harde by the water syde, and there I laye almost all night, and haue bled all moste all the bloude out in my body. It rayned that morninge very faste: and whyle I was thus talking with him, a honest poore woman that dwelt thereby, brought him a fayre lynnen cloth, and bid hym wype his face therewith, and there being a tubbe standing full of rayn water, offered to giue him some in a dishe, that he might make himselfe cleane, he refuseth the same: why dost thou so quoth I? A syr saith he, if I shoulde washe my selfe, I should fall to bleding a fresh agayne, and then I shoulde not stop my selfe: these words made me the more to suspecte hym. Then I asked of him where he was borne, what his name was, how long he had this disease, and what time he had ben here about London, and in what place? syr (sayth he) I was borne at Leycestar, my name is Nicholas Genings, and I haue had this falling sickenes viij yeares, and I can get no remedy for the same, for I haue it by kind, my father had it and my friends before mee, and I haue bene these two yeares here about London, and a yere and a halfe in Bethelem: why wast thou out of thy wittes, quoth I? yea syr that I was. What is the kepers name of the house? his name is (quoth he) John Smith. then quoth I, hé muste vnderstande of thy disease, if thou hadest the same for the time thou wast there, he knoweth it wel, ye not only he, but all the house beside, quoth this Cranke, for I came thens but within this fortnight. I had stand so longe reasoning the matter with him, that I was a cold and went into my chamber and made me ready, and commaunded my seruant to repayr to bethlem and bring me true word from the kæper there, whether anye suche man hath ben with him as a prisoner, hauing the disease aforesayd, and gaue him a note of his name & the kæpers also: my seruant returning to my lodging, dyd assure me that neyther was there euer any such man there, neither yet any keper of any suche name, but hee that was the kæper sent mé his name in writing, affirminge that he letteth no man depart from him, vnlesse he be fet awaye by

his friendes, and that none that came from him begged aboute the Citie: then I sent for the Printer of this booke, and shewed him of this dissembling Crank, and how I had sent to Bethelem to vnderstand the truth, and what aunsweare I receiued againe, requiringe him that I might haue some seruant of his to watch him faythfully that daye, that I might vnderstand truelely to what place he would repaire at night vnto, and thyther I promysed to goe my selfe, to see their order, and that I would haue him to associate me thyther: hee gladly graunted to my request, and sent two boyes that bothe diligently & vigilantly, accomplisht the charge giuen them, & found the same Cranke about the Temple, where about the most parte of the day he begged, vnlesse it were about xii. of the clocke, hee wente on the backsyde of Clementes Inne without Temple barre, there is a lane that goeth into the Fieldes, there hee renewed his face agayne with freshe bloud, which he caried about him in a bladder, and dawbed on fresh dyrte vpon his ierken, hat and hosen.

And so came backe agayne vnto the Temple, and sometyme to the Water syde, and begged of all that passed by: the boyes beheld how some gaue grotes, some fyue pence, some gaue more: for hee looked so ougley and yrksomly, that euery one pitied his miserable case that beheld him: to be shorte, there he passed all the daye tyll night approched, and when it began to be some what darke, he went to the water syde and toke a Skoller, and was set ouer the water into Saincte Georges fieldes, contrary to my expectation: for I had thought he would haue gonne into Holborne, or to saynt Gyles in the field: but these boyes with (Argues and Lynces eyes) sette sure watch vppon him, and the one toke a Boate and followed him, and the other went back to tell his maister.

The boy that so followed him by water, had no money to pay for his boate hyre, but layd his Penner and his Inckhorne to gage for a penny, and by that tyme the boye was set ouer: his maister with all celeritie had taken a Boate and followed him a pace. Now had they a syght still of the Cranke, whiche crossed ouer the fieldes towardes Newington, and thither he went, & by that time they came thether, it was very darke. The Printer had there no acquaintance, neyther any kinde of weapon about him, neyther knewe he howe farre the Cranke would goe, because hee then suspected that they dogged him of purpose, hee there stayed him, and called for ỳ Constable, which came forth diligently, to inquire what the matter was. This zelous Printer charged this officer with him as a malefactor.

lefactor, and a dissembling vagabond: the Constable wouldе haue layd him all night in the Cage that stode in the street: nay saith this pytyfull Printer, I pray you haue him into your house, for this is lyke to be a cold nigot and he is naked, you kepe a bittelling house, let him be well cherished this night, for he is well able to paye for the same, I knowe well his gaynes hath ben great to day, and your house is a sufficient pryson for the tyme, and we will there searche him: the Constable agreed thereunto, they hadde him in and caused him to washe himself: that done, they demaunded what money hee had about him, sayth this Cranke, so God helpe me I haue but rij. pence, and plucked out the same of a little purse. Why haue you no more quoth they? no sayth this Cranke, as God shall saue my soule at the day of iudgment. We must see more quoth they and began to strip him, then he plucked out another purse wherein was xl. pence. Tush sayth this Printer I must see more, this Cranke sayth, I pray God I be damned both body and soule, if I haue any more: Do saith this Printer, thou false knaue here is my boye that did watch thee al this day, and sawe when suche men gaue thee peces of fire pence, grotes and other money, and yit thou hast shewed vs none but smal money. When this Cranke heard this, and the boy bowing it to his face, he relented and plucked out another purse wherein was eight shillings & od money, so had they in the whole that he had begged ỳ day. xlij. shillings iij. pence half peny: then they stript him starke naked; and as many as saw him, sayd they neuer saw hansommer mã, with a yellow fleren beard, and fayre skinned without any spot or greffe, then the good wyfe of the house set her goodmans old cloke, and caused the same to be cast about him, because the sight shoulde not abashe her shamefast maydens, nether loth hir squaimish sight. Thus he set him downe at the Themnes end, and called for a pot of Beere and dranke of a quart at a draste, and called for another, and so the third, that one had ben sufficient for any reasonable man: the drynk was so stronge, that I my self the next morning tasted therof, but let the reader iudge what, and how much he would haue dronke if he had bene out of fear. Then when they had thus wrong water out of a flint, in spoylig him of his euill gottē goods, his passing pence & fleting trashe. The Printer with this officer were in toly toylitie, and deuised to search a barne for som roges, & vpright men, a quarter of a myle from the house, that stode alone in the fieldes, & went out about their busines, leaving this cranke alone with hys wyfe & maydens: this crafty Crāk espying al gon, requested ỳ good wife that

he might go out on the backsyde to make water and to exonerat his pauned, she bad him draw the latch of the doore & go out, neither thinking or mistrusting he would haue gone away naked: but to cōclude

when he was out, he cast away the cloke, and as naked as euer he was born he ran away ouer the fields to his own house, as hee afterward said. Now ẏ next morning betimes I wente vntoo Newingtō to vnderstand what was don because I had worde or it was day ẏ there my printer was, & at my comming thither I harde ẏ whole circūstance, as I aboue haue written: and I seeing the matter so fal out, toke order wt the chief of ẏ parish ẏ this xiij shillings & iij. pence halfpeny might be the next day equally distributed by their good discretions to the pouertie of the same parish, wherof this crafty cranck had part him selfe, for he had both house and wife in the same parishe, as after you shall heare. But this lewde lewterar could not laye his bones to labour hauing got once the tast of this lewed laysy lyfe, for al this fayr admonition but deuised other suttell sleights to maintaine his ydell liuing, and so craftely clothed him selfe in Mariners apparel, and associated him self with an other of his companions, they hauing both Mariners apparel, went abroad to aske charity of ẏ people, fayning they hadde loste their shippe with all their goods by casualty on the seas, wherewith they gayned much. This crafty Cranke fearinge to be mistrusted, fell to another kinde of begging as bad or worse, & apparelled himselfe very well with a fayre black freese cote, a newe payre of whyte hose, a fyne felt hat on his head, a shert of flaunders worke, esteemed to be worth xvi. shillings: and vpon newe yeares day came againe into the whyt fryers to beg: the Printer hauinge

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occasion to go that ways, not thinking of this Cranke, by chaunce met with him who asked his charitie for Gods sake: the printer be-ing him well did mistrust him, to be the counterfet Cranke which deceiued him vpon Alhollen daye at night, demaunded of whence he was and what was his name, forsoth saith he, my name is Nicolas Genings, and I came from Leceſter to seke worke, and I am a hat maker by my occupation, and all my money is spent, and if I coulde get money to paye for my lodging this night: I would seke worke to morowe amongſt the hatters. The printer perceiuing his depe dissi-mulation putting his hand into his purse seeming to giue him some money, and with fayre allusions brought him into the streete, where he charged the Constable with him, affirminge him to be the coun-terfet Cranke that ranne away vpon Alholon daye last. The Con-stable being very loth to medle with him, but the printer knowing him and his depe deceit, desyred he mought be brought before the Debutie of the ward, which straight was accomplished. which whē he came before the debuty, he demaunded of him of whence he was and what was his name, he answered as before he did vnto ẏ print-er: the Debutie asked the Printer what he woulde laye vnto hys charge, he answered & alleged him to be a vagabond and depe decey-uer of the people, and the counterfet Crank that ran away vpon Al-hallon day last from the Constable of Newington and him, and re-quested him earnestly to send him to ward: the debuty thinking him to be deceiued, but neuertheleſſe laid his cōmaundement vpon him, so that the Printer should beare his charges if he could not iustifie it he agreed thereunto And so he and the Constable went to cary him to the Counter, and as they were going vnder Ludgate, this crafty Crank toke his heles & ran down the hill as fast as he could dryue, the Constable and the Printer after him as fast as they coulde, but the Printer of ẏ twayn being lighter of fote, ouertoke him at fleete bridge, and with strong hand carted him to the Counter, and safely deliuered him. In ẏ morow ẏ printer sent his boy that stripped him vpon Alhalon day at night to view him because he would bee sure, which boy knew him very well: this Crank confessed vnto the De-buty, ẏ he had hosted the night before in Kent streat in Southwarke at the signe of the Cock, which thing to be true, the printer sente to know & found him a lyer, but further, inquiring at length found out his habitation, dwelling in maister Hilles rentes, hauinge a pretye house well stuffed with a fayre ioyne table, and a fayre Cubbard garnished with peuter, hauing an old auncient woman to his wife.

The Printer being sure therof, repaired vnto the Counter, and reboked him for his beastly behauiour, & told him of his false fayning, willed him to confesse it and aske forgiuenes: he perceyued him to know his depe dissimulation, relented and confessed all his deceit, & so remayning in the counter three dayes, was remoued to Bridwel where he was stript starke naked, and his ougly attyre put vpō him before the maisters thereof, who wondred greatly at his dissimulation: for which offence he stode vpon the Pillery in Cheapside, both in his ougly and handsome attyre. And after that went in the myll whyle his ougly picture was a drawing, and then was whypped at a Cartes tayle through London, and his displayd banner caried before him, vnto his own dore, and so backe to Bridewell again, and their remayned for a time, & at length let at libertie on that condicō he would proue an honest man and labour truly to get his liuing. And his picture remayneth in Bridewell for a monyment.

A Dommerar. Cap. 12.

These Dommerars are leud and moste subtill people, the moste part of these are Walch men, and will neuer speak, vnlesse they haue extreme punishment but will gape, and with a maruelous force will hold downe their toungs doubled, gronynge for your charitie, and holding vp their handes full piteously, so that with their depe dissimulation they get very much. There are of these many, & but one that I vnderstand of hath lost his toung in deed: hauing on a tyme occasion to ryde to Dartford to speake with a priest there, who maketh all kind of cōserues very well and vseth stilling of waters. And repayring to his house, I found a Dommerar at his doore, and the priest himselfe perusing his licence, vnder the seales and handes of certayne worshipfull men, had thought the same to bee good and effectual. I taking the same writing and reading it ouer and noting the seales, found one of the seales like vnto a seale that I had about me: which seale I bought besides Charinge crosse, that I was out of doubt it was none of those Gentlemens seales that had subscribed. And hauing vnderstanding before of their peuish practises, made me to conceiue that al was forged & nought. I made the more hast home for wel I wist that he would and must of force passe through the parish where I dwelt, for there was no other way for him. And comming homeward, I found them in the towne according to my expectation, wher they where staid, for there was a Palliard associate with

with the Dommerar and partaker of his gaynes, which Pallyards I saw not at Darford. The staiers of them was a gentleman called Chayne, & seruant of my Lord Keepers, called Wostestow, which was the chief causer of the staying of them, being a Surgien & cunning in his science, had sene the like practises, and as he sayd hadde caused one to speake afore that was dome. It was my chaonce to come at the beginnig of the matter. Syr (q this Surgien) I am bold here to vtter some part of my cunning, I trust (quoth he) you shall se a myracle wrought anon: for I once (quoth he) made a domme man to speak. Quoth I you are wel met, and somwhat you haue preuented me for I had thought to haue done no lesse or they hadde passed this towne, for I well knowe their writing is sayned, and they depe dissembiers. The Surgien made him gape, & we could se but halfe a toung. I required the Surgien to put his finger in his mouth, & to pull out his toung, and so he did, notwithstanding he held strongly a prety whyle: at the length he pluckt out the same, to the great admiration of many that stode by: yet when we sawe his tounge, he would neither speake nor yet could heare. Quoth I to the Surgien, knit two of his fingers togither and thrust a stycke betwene them, and rubbe the same vp and downe a little whyle, and for my lyfe he speaketh by and by. Syr quoth this Surgien, I pray let me practise an other way, I was well contented to se the same He had him into a house, and tyed a halter aboute the wrestes of his handes and hoysed him vp ouer a beam, and their did let him hang a good while at length for very paine he required for gods sake to let him downe. So he that was both deafe and dume could in short tyme both heare and speake. Then I tooke that money I could find in his purse, and distributed the same to the poore people dwelling there, which was xb. pence halfpeny, being all that wee coulde finde. That done, and this mery myracle madly made, I sent them with my seruant to the nert Justicer, where they preached on the pyllery for want of a pulpet, and were well whypped, and none did bewayle them.

A Dronken Tinckar. Cap. 13.

These dronken Tinckars called also prygges, be beastly people, & these yong knaues be ỹ worst: these neuer goe wout their dores and if their woman haue any thing about them, as apparell or linnen that is worth the selling, they lay the same to gage or sell it out right (for bene house) at their bowsing ken. And full sone will they

bee weary of them, and haue a new When they happen one worke at any good house, their Dores lynger alooft, and tarry for them in some corner, and if he taryeth longe from her, then she knoweth he hath worke, and walketh neare, and sitteth downe by him. For besydes money he loketh for meate and drink for doing his dame pleasure. For if she haue three or foure holes in a pan, hee will make as many more for spedy gayne. And if he see any olde kettle, chafer or peuter dish abroad in the yarde where he worketh, he quickly snappeth the same vp, and into the booget it goeth rounde. Thus they liue with deceyte.

¶ I was credibly informed by such as could well tell, that one of these tipling Tinckers wt his dogge robbed by the high way iiii. Pallyards and two Roges six persons togither, and toke from them aboue foure pound in ready money, & hidd him after in a thicke wood a day or two and so escaped vntaken. Thus with picking and stealing, mingled with a little worke for a colour, they passe their time

¶ A Swadder or Pedler. Cap. 14.

These Swadders and Pedlers be not all euill, but of an indifferent behauiour. These stand in great awe of the vpright men, for they haue often both wares and mony of them. But for as much as they seeke gayne vnlawfully agaynst the lawes and statutes of this noble realme, they are well worthy to be registred amonge the number of vacabonds: and vndoutedly I haue hadde some of them brought before me when I was in commission of the peace as malefactors for brybering and stealing. And now of late it is a greate practice of the vpright man, when he had gotten a botye to bestowe the same vpon a packeful of wares, and so goeth a time for his pleasure, because he woulo lyue without suspicion.

A Jarke man, and a Patrico. Cap. 15.

FOR as much as these two names a Jarkeman and a Patrico be in the old briefe of vacabonds, and set forth as two kindes of euil doers, you shall vnderstande that a Jarkeman hath hys name of a Jarke, which is a seale in their Language, as one should make writings and set seales for licences and pasports. And for trueth there is none that goeth about the countrey of them that can eyther wryte so good and fayre a hand, eyther indite so learnedly as I haue sene & hand-

handled a number of them: but haue the same made in good townes where they come, as what can not be had for money, as the prouerbe saith, Omnia venalia Romæ, and many hath confessed the same to me Now also there is a Patrico and not a Patriarcha, whiche in their language is a priest that should make mariages till death did depart but they haue none such I am well assured. for I put you out of dout that not one amongst a hundreth of them are maried, for they take lechery for no sinne, but naturall felowship and good liking loue, so that I will not blot my booke with these two that be not.

A Demaunder for glymmar. Cap. 16.

These Demaunders for glymmar be for the most parte women, for glymmar in their language is fyer: these goe with fayned lycences and counterfayted writings, hauing the hands and seales of suche Gentlemen as dwelleth neare to the place where they fayne themselues to haue bene burnt, and their goods consumed with fyre. They will most lamentably demaund your charity and wil quickly shed salt teares they be so tender harted. They will neuer begge in that shyre where their losses (as they saye) was. Some of these goe with slates at their backes, which is a sheete to lye in a nights. The vpright men be very familiar with these kinde of wemen, and one of them helpes another.

A Demaunder of glymmar came to a good towne in Kente, to aske the charitie of the people, hauing a fayned licēce about her that declared her misfortune by fyer done in Somersbet shyre, walkinge with a wallet on her shoulders wherin she put the deuotion of such as hadde no money to giue her, that is to say, malte, wooll, bakē, bread and chese: and alwayes as the same was full, so was it ready money to her when she emptyed the same, wher so euer shee traueled. This harlot was (as they terme it) snowt fayre, and hadde an vpright man or two alwayes attending on her watche (which is on her person) and yet so circumspect, that they would neuer be sene in her company in any good Towne, vnles it were in small villages, where typling houses where, either traueling togither by the high wayes, but (the truth is by report) she would wekely be worth vi. or seuen shillings with her begging and bychery. This glymmeringe Morte repayring to an Inne in the said town where dwelt a widow of fifty yeare old, of good wealth, but shee had an vnthrifty sonne, whom she vsed as a chamberlaine to attend gestes whē thei repaired

to her house, this amerous man beholding with ardant eyes: thys glymmering glaunces, was presently piteously persed to the hart, and lewdly longed to be clothen vnder her linery, and bestowing a fewe fonde wordes with her, vnderstood straight that she would be easely perswaded to liking lechery, and as a man mased, mused how to attayne to his purpose, for he hadde no money. Yet considering with him selfe that wares would bee welcome where money wanteth, he went with a wanion to his mothers chamber and there seeking about for odde endes, at length found a little wishell of siluer that his mother did vse customably to weare on, and had forgot the same for haste that morning, and offeres the same closely to this manerly marian, that if she would meete him on the backesyde of the town, and curteously kys him without constraint, she should be mystresse therof and it were much better: wel sayth she you are a wanton, and beholding the wishell, was farther in loue therewith, then rauisht with his person, and agreed to meete him presently and to accomplish his fond fancy: to be short and not tedious, a quarter of a myle from the towne he merely toke measure of her vnder a baudy bush (so she gaue him that she had not, and he receyued that he could not) and taking leaue of ech other with a curteous kisse, she pleasantly passed forth on her iorney, and this vntoward lecherous chamberlayne repayred homeward. But or these twoo tortylles tooke their leaue, the good wyfe had missed her whishle, & sent one of her maydens into her chamber for the same, and being long sought for, none could be found, her mystres hearing that, diligent search was made for the same, and that it was taken away, began to suspecte her vnblessed babe, and demaunded of her maydens whether none of them saw his sonne in her chamber that morning, and one of them aunswered that she saw him not there but comming from thence. then had she ynough, for well she wist that he had the same, and sente for him, but he could not be found: then she caused her hosteler, in whō she had better affiance in for his trueth, and yet not one amongest twenty of them but haue well left their honesty (as I heare a greate sort say) to come vnto her, which attended to know her pleasure, goe seeke out saith she my vntoward sonne, and bid him come speake with me. I saw him goe out saith hee, halfe an houre sithens on the backsyde, I had thought you had sent him of your arrant. I sent him not quoth she, goe looke him out.

This hollow hosteler toke his staffe in his neck, and trudged out apace that way he saw him before go, and had some vnderstanding

by

by one of the maydens that his mistres had her wischell stolen & suspected her sonne, and he had not gon far but that he espyed him comming homeward alone, and meting him, asked where he had bene? where haue I ben qᵖ he, and began to smyle, now by the masse thou hast ben at some baudy banquet: thou hasse euen tolde troth qᵖ this chamberlayne: surely qᵖ this hosteler, thou haddest the same woman that begged at our house to day, for the harmes she had by fire, wher is she qᵖ he? she is almost a myle by this tyme qᵖ this chamberlayne, where is my mistres whichel quoth this hosteler, for I am wel assured that thou haddest it, & I feare me thou hast giuen it to that harlot. Why, is it missed quoth this chamberlayn? yea qᵖ this hosteler, and shewed him al the whole circumstance what was both said and thought on him for the thing. Well I wil tel thee quoth this chamberlayne, I will be playne with thee. I had in dede & haue giuen the same to this woman, and I pray thee make the beste of it, and helpe now to excuse the matter, and yet surely and thou wouldest take so much payne for me as to ouertake her, for she goeth but softly and is not yit farre of and take the same from her, & I am euer thyne assured friend. Why then go with me quoth this hosteler, nay in fayth quoth this Chamberlayne what is frear then gift, and I had preaty pastime for the same: hadest thou so quoth this hosteler? now by the masse and I will haue some to, or I will lye in the duste or I come a gain. Passing with hast to ouertake this paramoure within a myle frō ẏ place wher he departed he ouertoke hir hauing an vpryghtmā in her company, a strong and a sturdy vacabond, somewhat amased was this hosteler to sée one familiarly in hir company, for he had wel hoped to haue had some delicate dalliaunce as his fellow hadde, but séeing the matter so fal out, and being of good corage, and thinking to him selfe that one true man was better then two false knaues, & being on the high way thought vpon helpe if nede had bene, by such as had passed to and fro: demaūded fiersely the whichel that she had euen now of his fellow: why husband quoth she, can you suffer this wretch to slaunder your wife? auaunt verlet quoth this vpryght man and letes dryue withall his force at this hosteler, and after half a dosen blowes he stricks his staffe out of his hand, and as this hosteler stept backe to haue taken vp his staffe agayne: this glymmerynge Morte slinges a great stone at him and strake him on the head, that downe he fales with the bloud about his eares, and whyle hée laye thus amased, the vpryght man snatches away his purse, where in he hadde money of his mistresses, as well as of his owne, and there

let him lye and went away with spede, that they were neuer hearde of more. When this drye beaten hosteler was come to himselfe, hee fayntly wandereth home, and creepeth into his couche and restes his ydell head: hys mystres heard that he was come in, and layd him downe on his bed, repayred straight vnto him, and asked him what he ayled, and what the cause was of his so sodden lyinge on his bed? what is the cause ꝙ this hostele, your whyshell, your wishell, speaking the same piteously three or foure tymes: why fole quoth his mystres, take no care for that, for I do not greatly way it, it was worth but three shillings four pence. I would it had ben burnt for four yeeres agon. I pray thee why so quoth his mystres? I thinke thou arte mad. Nay not yet quoth this hostler, but I haue ben madly handled: why, what is the matter ꝙ his mystres, and was more desirous to know the case: and you will forgiue my fellow & mee, I will shewe you, or els I will neuer do it: she made him presently faythfull promise that she would, then sayth hee send for your sonne home again, which is ashamed to looke you in the face. I agree thereto sayth she, well then quoth this hosteler, your sonne hath geuen the same mort that begged here, for the burninge of her house, a whishell, and you haue giuen her fyue shillings in money, and I haue geuen her ten shillings of myn own: why so quoth shee, then he sadly shewed her of his mishap, with all the circumstance that you haue hearde before, and how his purse was taken away, and xv. shillinges in the same, whereof v. shillings was her money, and x shillings his owne money. Is this true quoth his mystres? I by my trouth quoth thys hosteler and nothing greeues me so much, neyther my beatynge, neyther the losse of my money, as doth my euill & wretched lucke. Why, what is the matter quoth his mystres? your sonne sayth this hostler had some chere and pastime for that whishell, for he lay with her, and I haue ben well beaten and haue had my pursse taken from me, and you know your sonne is mery and pleasaunt and can keepe no great councell, and then shall I be mocked & laughed to skorn in all places, when they shall heare how I haue ben serued. Nowe out vpon you knaues both, quoth his mystres, and laughes out the matter, for she well sawe it would not otherwyse preuayle.

A Baudy Basket. Cap. 17.

These Baudye Basketes bee also women, and goe with baskets and Capcases on their armes, where in they haue Laces, pinnes,

pinnes, nedels, whyte inkel, and rounde spike gyrdels of all colours. These will bye conaeskines, and strale linnen clothes of on hedges. And for their tryfles they will procure of mayden seruaunts, when their mistres or dame is out of the waye, eyther some good peece of beefe, bake or cheese, that shalbe worth viii. pence for ii. pence of their toyes. And as they walke by the way, they often gaine some money with their instrument, by such as they sodaynly mete withall. The vpright men haue good acquayntance with these, and will helpe and relieue them when they want. Thus they trade their lives in leude lothsome lechery. Amongst them all is but one honest woman, and she is of good yeares: her name is Jone Pellenger I haue had good proofe of her, as I haue learned by the true report of diuers.

There came to my gate the last sommer Anno Domini 1566. a very miserable man and much deformed as burnt in the face, blere eyde, and lame of one of his legges that he went with a crouche. I asked him wher he was borne & wher he dwelt last, and shewed him that thither he must repaire and be relieued, and not to range about the countrey, & seeing some cause of charity, I caused him to haue meate and drink, and when he had dronk, I demaunded of him whether he was neuer spoyled of the vpright man or roge, yes that I haue q he, but yet these seuen yeres, for so long haue I gon abroad I had not so much taken from me nor so euil bädied as I was within these iiij. dayes why, how so q I? in good fayth sir quoth hee, I chaunced to mete with one of these baudy baskets which had an vpright man in hir cõpany: and as I would haue passed quietly by her, man saith she vnto her mate, do you not see this illauored windshaken knaue? yes q the vpright man, what say you to him, this knaue oweth me ij. shillings for wares he had of mee halfe a yere a go. I think it well said this vpright man: syrra saide he, pay your debts, said this poore man I owe hir none, nether did I euer bargayne wt her for any thing, and as I am aduised I neuer saw her before in all my lyfe, mercy god quoth she what a lying knaue is this, and he wil not pay you husband beat him surely, and the vpright man gaue mee three or foure blowes on my back and shoolders and would haue beat me more and I had not giuen him all the money in my purse, and in good faith for very feare I was fayn to giue him viij. pens which was al the money that I had: why said this baudy basket hast thou no more, then thou owest ten pence styll, and be well assured that I will be payde the next tyme I meete with thee. And so they let me passe by them. I pray god saue and blesse me & all others in my case

from such wicked persons quoth this poore mā, why whether went they, then quoth I, into east Kent, for I met with them on thys side of Rochester. I haue diuers tymes bene attempted but I neuer lost much before. I thanke God ther came still company by, afore this vnhappy time. Well quoth I, thanke God of all, and repaire home into thy native country.

A Autem Morte. Cap. 18.

These Autem Mortes be maried wemen, as there be but a fewe: For Autem in their language is a Church, so shee is a wyfe maried at the Church, and they be as chaste as a Cowe: I haue ỹ goeth to Bull euery mone, with what Bull she careth not. These walke most tymes from their husbands company a moneth and more together, being associate with another as honest as her selfe. These will pilfer clothes of hedges. some of them go with childzen of ten or xij. yeares of age. if time and place serue for their purpose they wil send them into some house at the window to steale and robbe, which they call in their language, Milling of the ken, & will goe with wallets on their shoulders and slates at their backs, there is one of these Autem Mortes, she is now a widow of fifty yeares old, her name is Alice Wilson, she goeth about with a couple of great boyes, the yõgest of them is fast vpon xx. yeares of age, and these two do lie with her euery night, and she lyeth in the middes, she saith ỹ they be her childzen that betcled be the babes borne of such abhominable belly.

A Walking Morte. Cap. 19.

These walking Mortes be not maryed, these for their vnhappye yeares doth go as a Autem Morte, and will saye their husbands died either at Newhauen Ireland, or in some seruice of the Prince. These make laces vpon staues & purses that they cary in their hands and white vallance for beddes. Many of these hath hadde, and haue childzen: when these get ought, either with begging bycherye or bzybery as money or apparell, they are quickly shaken out of all by the vpright men, that they are in a maruelous feare to cary any thing about them that is of any value. Wherefore, this policy they vse, they leaue their money now with one and then with another trusty housholder, eyther with the good man or good wyfe, some tyme in one shire, and then in another as they trauell: this haue I knowne ỹ

iiii.or v.shillings, yea x. shillinges left in a place, and the same will they come for againe within one quarter of a yere or some time not in halfe a yeare, and all this is to little purpose, for all their penishe pollicie: for when they bye them lynnen or garmentes, it is taken away from them and worse giuen them, or none at all.

The last Sommer Anno Domini 1566. beinge in familiar talke with a walkig Whore, that came to my gate. I learned by hir what I could, & I thought I had gathered as much for my purpose as I desired, I began to rebuke her for hir lewd life and beastly behauior, declaring to her what punishment was prepared & heaped vp for her in the world to come for hir filthy liuing and wretched conuersation, God helpe qᵗ she how should I liue, none will take me into seruice, but I labour in harueſt time honestly. I think hat a whyle with honesty qᵗ I. Shall I tell you qᵗ she, the best of vs may bee amended, but yit I thanke God, I did one good deed within this vii. monthes, wherin qᵗ I. Saith she I would not haue it spoken of again: if it be meete and necessary, qᵗ I, it shall lye vnder my feete: what mean you by that quoth she. I meane qᵗ I, to hide the same and neuer to discouer it to any. Well qᵗ she and began to laugh as much as she could & sware by the masse that if I disclosed the same to any she would neuer tell me any thinge. The last sommer qᵗ she I was greate with childe and I traueled into east kent by the sea coast, for I lusted marueilously after oyster and muskels and gathered many, & in the place where I found them, I opened them and eate them still, at the laste in sæking more, I reached after one and stept into a hole and fel in, into the waste & there did stick, and I had ben drowned if the tide had come, and espying a man a good way of, I cryed as much as I could for helpe. I was alone, he hard me and repaired as fast to me as hee might, and finding me there fast sticking, I required for Gods sake his helpe, and whether it was with stryuing and forcing my self or for ioy I had of his comming to me, I had a great colour in my face and loked red and well coloured. And to be playne with you, hee lyked me so well (as he said) that I should there lye still, and I would not graūt him that she might lye with me. And by my trouth I wist not what to answere, I was in such a perpleritie, for I knew ẏ man well, he had a very honest womā to his wyfe and was of som welth and on the other syde if I were not holpe out, I shoulde there haue perished, and I graunted him that I would obeye to his will, then he plucked me out. And because there was no conuenient place nere hand, I required him that I might go washe my selfe and make me

somewhat clenly, and I would come to his house and lodge al night in his barne, whether he might repayre to me and accomplishe his desire, but let it not be quoth she before nine of the clocke at nyght, for then there wilbe small styring. And I may repayre to the town ey she to warme & drye my self, for this was about two of the clocke in the after none. do so quoth he, for I must be busie to looke out my cattell here by before I can come home. So I went away from him and glad was I, and why so quoth I, because quoth she his wife my good dame is my very friend, and I am much beholding to hir And she had donne mee so muche good or this, that I were loth nowe to harme hir any way. Why so quoth I: what and it had ben any other man and not your good dames husband. The matter hadd bene the lesse quoth she. Tell me I pray thee quoth I, who was the father of the childe, she studied a while and sayd that it had a father, but what was hee quoth I? Nowe by my troth I know not quoth shee, you bring me out of my matter, so you do, well say on quoth I. then I departed strayte to the towne and came to my dames house. And shewed her of my misfortune, also of her husbands usage in al pointes and that I showed her the same for good will and bydd her take better hæd to her husband and to her selfe, so shee gaue mee great thankes and made me good chære, and byd me in anye case that I should be redy at the barne at that time and houre we had apointed for I know well quoth this good wife my husband will not breake with thæ. And one thing I warne thæ that thou giue me a watche word a loude when he goeth about to haue his pleasure of thæ, and that shalbæ fye for shame fye, and I will bee harde by you, with helpe. But I charge thæ kepe this secret vntill all be finished. and hold sayth this good wyfe here is one of my petticotes I giue thee. I thanke you good dame quoth I, and I warrante you I will bee true and trusty vnto you. So my dame left me sitting by a good fyer with meate and drinke, and with the oysters I brought with me, I hadde great chære, she went strayte and repayred vnto her gossipes dwelling thereby, and as I did after vnderstand, she made her mone to them, what a naughtye lewed lecherous husband shee hadde, and how that she could not haue his companye for harlottes, and that she was in feare to take some filthy disease of him, he was so common a man, hauing little respect whom he hadde to do with all, and quoth she now here is one at my house a poore woman that goeth about the countrey that he would haue hadde to doe with all, wherfore good neighboures and louinge gossypes as you loue mee

and

and as you would haue helpe at my hand another tyme, deuyse some remedy to make my husband a good man, ỳ I may liue in som suerty without disease, and that hæ may saue his soule that God so dearely bought. After hæ had tolde her tale they cast their perlinge eyes all vpon her, but one stout dame amongst the rest had these wordes: As your patient bearing of troubles, your honest behauiour among vs your neighbours, your tender and pitifull harte to the poore of the parish, doth moue vs to lament your case, so the vnsatiable carnaliti of your faithlesse husband doth instigate and styre vs to deuyse and inuent some spedy redresse for your case and the amendment of his lyfe. Wherfore this is my counceld and you will be aduertised byme I say to you all, vnlesse it be this good wyfe, who is chefely touched in this matter I haue the nert cause, for hæ was in hande with me not longe agoe, and company had not ben present whiche was by a maruelous chaunce, he had (I thinke) forced me. For often he hadde ben tempting with me, and yet haue I sharpely sayd him nay, therfore let vs assemble secretly into the place where hæ hath appointed to mæte this gyllot that is at your house and lyke prpuely in some corner tyll he begin to goe about his bussines. And then me thought I hard you say euen now, that you had a watch word, at which word we will all stepp forth beinge fiue of vs bestdes you, for you shalbe none because it is your husband, but get you to bed at your accustomed houre, and we will carry eche of vs a good brychen rod in oure laps, and we will all be muffeled for knowing, and sæ that you goe home and acquaint that walking mort with the matter for we must haue her helpe to hold, for always foure must hold and two lay on. Alas saith this good wyfe, he is to strong for you al, I would be loth for my sake you should receiue harme at his hande: feare you not ỳ these stout wemen, let her not giue the watch word vntill his hosen be about his legges, and I trow we all wilbe with him to bring before he shall haue leasure to plucke them vp agayne: they with one voyce agreed to ỳ matter that ỳ way she had deuised was the best: so this good wife repaired home: but before she departed frō hir gossips she shewed thē at what hour they should prtuely cum in on ỳ backside ẽ ther to tary their good hour, so by ỳ time she cam in, it was almost night and found the walking morte still sitting by the fier ẽ declared to her al this new deuise aboue said, which promised faithfullye to fulfill to her small power as much as they had deuised, within a quarter of an houre after, in cōmeth ỳ good man who said ỳ hee was about his cattell, why what haue we here wife sitting by the fire, ẽ

ſt ſhe haue eate and dronk ſend her into the barne to hir lodging for this night, for ſhe troubleth the houſe: euen as you will huſbande, ſaith his wife, you know ſhe commeth once in two yeres into theſe quarters. Away ſayth this good wyfe to your lodginge: yes good dame ſaith ſhe as faſt as I can, thus by loking one on the other eche knew others mynd, and ſo departed to her comely couche, the good man of the houſe chodge him for ioy, thinkinge to him ſelfe I will make ſom paſtime with you an one. And calling to his wyfe for his ſupper ſet him downe and was very pleaſant & dranke to his wife & fel to his mammerings and moūched a pace, nothing vnderſtāding of the banquet that was a preparing for him after ſupper, & accordig to the prouerbe (that ſwēt meat will haue ſowre ſauce,) thus when he was well refreſhed, his ſpirites being reuiued entred into familiar talk with his wyfe, of many matters how well he had ſpent that day to both their profytes, ſaying ſome of his cattell were lyke to haue bin drowned in the diches, dryuing others of his neighboures cattel out that were in his paſture, & mending his fences that were broken down. Thus profitably he had conſumed the daye, nothinge talking of his helping out of the walking mort out of the mier, neither of his requeſt nor yit of hir promiſe. Thus feding hir w̄ frendly fantaſies conſumed two houres and more. Then fayning howe hee would ſee in what caſe his horſe were in and how they were dreſſed, repaired couertly into the barne whereas his friendly foes lyrked priuely vnleſſe it were this manerly Morte, that comly couched on a bottell of ſtraw. What are you come q ſhe, by ỹ maſſe I would not for a hundreth pound that my dame ſhould know that you wer here either any els of your houſe. No I warrant thee ſaith this good man, they be all ſafe and faſt inough at their work, and I will be at myne anon And lay downe by her and ſtraight would haue had to do with her, nay fye ſaith ſhe, I like not this order, if ye lye with me you ſhal ſurely vntruſſe you & put down your hoſen for that way is moſt eaſieſt and beſt, ſaieſt thou ſo quoth he, now my troth agreed: and whē he had vntruſſed himſelf and put down, he began to aſſalt the inſatiable fort, why quoth ſhe that was without ſhame, ſauinge for her promes, and are you not aſhamed? neuer a whyt ſayth he, lye downe quickely, nowe fye for ſhame, fye ſayth thee aloude (which was the watch word) At the which word theſe fyue furious ſturdy muffeled goſſips flynges out and takes ſure holde of this betrayed perſon, ſone plucking his hoſen down lower, and bindinge the ſame faſt about his feete, then binding his handes and knittinge a hande char-

cher

ther about his eyes, that hee should not see, and when they had made him sure and fast, then they layd him on vntill they were windles: be good saith this Worte vnto my mayster for the passion of God, & layd on as fast as the rest, and still ceased not to crye vpon them too be mercyfull vnto him, and yet layd on a pace, and when they hadde well beaten him that the bloud brast plentifully out in most places they let him lye still bounde, with this exhortation, that he shoulde from that tyme forth knowe his wyfe from other mens, and that this punishment was but a flebyting in respect of that which should follow, if he amended not his manners. Thus leauing him blastering, blowing and foming for payne and malencolye, that hee neyther might or could be reuenged of them: they vanished awaye and had this worte with them, and safely conuayd her out of the towne: soone after commeth into the barne one of the good mans boyes to fet some haye for his horse. And fynding his maister lying fast bound and grieuously beaten with roddes, was sodainly abashed and wold haue runne out agayne to haue called for helpe, but his maister byd him come vnto him and vnbinde him, and make no woordes quoth he of this. I wilbe reuenged well ynough, yet notwithstandinge after better aduyse, the matter being vnhoneft, he thought it meeter to let the same passe, and not as the prouerbe sayth (to awake the sleeping dogge.) And by my troth quoth this walking worte, I com now from that place and was neuer there sythens this parte was playd, which is somewhat more then a yeare. And I heare a verye good report of him now, that he loueth his wyfe well and vseth hym selfe very honestly: and was not this a good acte, now how say you? It was prettely handeled quoth I, and is here all? yea quoth shee, here is the end.

A Dore. Cap. 20.

These Dores be broken & spoyled of their maydenhead by the vpright men, and then they haue their name of dores and not afore. And afterward she is common and indifferent for any that will vse her, as homo, is a commõ name to al men. Such as be fayre and somwhat handsome, kepe company with the walking Wortes, and are redy always for the vpright men, and are chiefly maynteined by them, for others shalbe spoiled for their sakes, the other inferior sort will resorte to noble mens places, and gentlemens houses standing at the gate, eyther lurking on the backsyde about backe houses, eyther in hedge rowes or some other thycket, expectynge their praye,

which is for the vncomly company of some courteous gest of whom they be refreshed with meate and some money, where eschaunge is made ware for ware: this bread and meate they vse to carye in their great hosen, so that these beastly byrbinge breches, serue many tymes for bandy purposes. I chaunced not long sithens familiarly to common with a Dore that came to my gate, and surely a pleasaunt harlot, and not so pleasant as witty, and not so witty as voyde of all grace and goodnes I found by her talk that she had passed her tyme lewdly eightene yeares in walking about. I thought this a necessary instrument to attayne some knowledge by, and before I woulde grope his mind, I made her both to eate and drynk well, that done I made her faithfull promise to gyue her some money if she woulde open and discouer to me such questions as I would demaund of his and neuer to bewraye his, neyther to disclose her name. And you should sayth shee I were vndone: feare not that quoth I. but I pray thee quoth I, say nothing but truth. I will not sayth shee, then firste tell me quoth I, how many vpright men and roges dost thou know or hast thou knowne and bene conuersant with, and what their names be: she paused a while and sayd, why do you aske me, or wherefore? For nothing els as I sayd, but that I would knowe them whē they come to my gate. Now by my troth (quoth she) then are yee neuer the nearer, for al myne acquaintance for the most part are dead, Dead quoth I: how dyed they for want of cherishing or of paynfull diseases: Then she sighed and sayde they were hanged. What all quoth I, and so many walke abroad as I dayly see: By my trouth quoth she I know not passe sir or seuen by their names, and named the same to mee. When were they hanged quoth I: Some seuen yeares agone, some three yeares, and some with in this fortnight, and declared the place where they weare executed, which I knewe well to be true, by report of others. Why (quoth I) dyd not this sorowfull and fearefull sight much greeue thee, and for thy tyme long and euill spent. I was sory quoth shee, by the masse, for some of them were good louing men, for I lackt not when they had it, and they wanted not when I had it, and diuers of them I neuer did forsake, vntill the Gallowes departed vs. O mercyfull God quoth I, and began to blesse me. Why blesse ye quoth she: Alas good gentleman, euery one must haue a liuing. Other matters I talked of, but this now may suffice to shewe the reader as it were in a glasse the bolde beastely lyfe of these Dores. For suche as hath gonne any tyme abroade, will neuer forsake their trade, to dye therefore.

I haue hadde good proſe thereof. There is one notorious harlot of this affinitie called Beſſe Bottomely, ſhee hath but one hande, and ſhe hath murthered two children at the leaſt.

A Dell. Cap. 21.

A Dell is a ponge wench, able for generation, and not yet known or broken by the vpright man. Theſe goe abroade ponge, either by the death of their parentes, and no body to looke vnto them or elſe by ſome ſharpe myſtres that they ſerue do runne awaye out of ſeruice, either ſhe is naturally borne one, and then ſhe is a wyld Dell: theſe are broken very ponge, when they haue ben lyen withall by the vprigot man, then they bee Dores, and no Dell. Theſe wylde Dels being traded vp with their monſtrous mothers, muſte of neceſſitie be as euil or worſe then their parentes, for neyther we gather grapes from græne bryars, neyther fygges from Thiſtels. But ſuch buds, ſuch bloſſems, ſuch euil ſæde ſowen, wel worſſe being growen.

A Kynching Mort. Cap. 22.

A Kynching Mort is a little Gyrle, the Mortes their mothers carries them at their backes in their ſlates, whiche is their ſhetes, and bringes them vp ſauagely, till they growe to be ripe, and ſoone ripe, ſoone rotten.

A Kynchen Co. Cap. 23.

A Kinchen Co, is a young boye traded vp to ſuche pæuiſh purpoſes, as you haue hard of other young ympes before, that when he groweth vnto yeares, he is better to hang then to draw forth.

Their vſage in the night. Cap. 24.

NOw, I think it not vnneceſſary to make the Reader vnderſtand how and in what maner they lodge a nights in barnes or backhouſes, and of their vſage there, for aſmuch as I haue acquaynted them with their order and practiſes a day tymes. The arch and chief walkers that hath walked a long tyme, whoſe experience is great, becauſe of their continuing practiſe, I meane all Mortes & Dores,

for their handſomnes & diligence, for making of their couches. The men neuer trouble themſelues with that thing, but takes the ſame to be the duty of the wyfe. And ſhe ſhuffels vp a quantitie of ſtrawe or hay, into ſome pretty corner of the barne where ſhe may conueniently lye, and well ſhaketh the ſame, making the heade ſomewhat hye, and byndes the ſame vpon the ſydes and ſet lyke a bed: then ſhe layeth her wallet or other little pack of ragges, or ſcryppe vnder hir head in the ſtrawe, to beare vp the ſame, and layeth her petticote or cloke vpon and ouer the ſtrawe, ſo made lyke a bedde and that ſerueth for the blanket: then ſhe layeth her ſlate which is her ſhéete vpon that, and ſhé haue no ſhéete, as fewe of them go without, then ſhe ſpreddeth ſome large cloutes or rags ouer the ſame, and maketh hir ready and layeth her drouſely downe. Many will plucke of their ſmockes and lay the ſame vpon them in ſtéede of their vpper ſhéete, and all her other pelte and traſhe vpon her alſo, and many lyeth in their ſmockes. And if the reſt of her clothes in cold weather bee not ſufficient to kéepe her warme, then ſhe taketh ſtrawe or hay to performe the matter. The other ſorte that haue no ſlates, but toumble down and couche a hogſhead in their clothes, theſe be ſtill louſy and ſhall neuer be without vermin, vnleſſe they put of their clothes, and lye as is aboue ſaid. If the vpright man come in where they lye, hee hath his choyſe, and créepeth in cloſe by his Dore, the roge hath his leauings. If the Portes or Dores lye or be lodged in ſome Farmers barne, and the doze be eyther locked or made faſt to them, then will not the vpright man preſſe to come in, vnles it be in barnes and out houſes ſtanding alone, or ſome diſtance from houſes, which be commonly knowne to them: as ſainct Quintens, thrée Cranes in the vintrey, Hainct Tybbes, & Knapſbery. Theſe foure be within one myle compaſſe neare vnto London. Then haue you foure more in Middleſex, draw the pudding out of the fyre, in Harrow on the hill pariſh, the Croſſe keyes in Crayford pariſh, ſaynt Iuſtans in Thyſtell worth pariſh, the houſe of pity in North hall pariſhe. Theſe are their chief houſes neare about London, where commonlye they reſort vnto for lodging, and may repayre thyther frely at all tymes. Sometime ſhall come in ſome roge, ſome pycking knaue, a nimble Pygge, he walketh in ſoftly a nightes, when they be at their reſte & plucketh of as many garmentes as be ought worth, that bee maye come by, and worth money, and may eaſely carye the ſame, and runneth away with the ſame with great ſelerity, and maketh port ſale at ſome conuenient place of theirs, that ſome be ſone ready in the

morning,

morning, for wante of their Casters and Togemans. Where in stede of blessing is cursinge, in place of praying, pestilent pratinge with odious othes and terrible threatnings. The vpright men haue giuen all these nycke names, to the places aboue sayd. Yet haue we two notable places in Kent, not farre from London, the one is bettwene Detforde and Rothered called the Kinges barne, standinge alone, that they haunt commonly: the other is Ketbroke standinge by blacke heath halfe a myle from any house, there will they boldly draw the latch of the doore and go in, when the good man with hys family be at supper and sit downe without leaue and eate and drink with them, and either lye in the hall by the fyer al night or in ẏ barn if there be no roome in the house for them. If the doore be eyther bolted or lockt, if it be not opened vnto them when they will, they will breake the same open to his farther cost. And in this barne sometime do lye xl. vpright men with their Dores togither at one time. And this muste the poore Farmer suffer, or els they threaten him too burne him, and all that he hath.

The names of the vpright men, Roges, and Pallyards.

HEre followeth the vnruly rablement of rascals, and the moste notorious and wickedst walkers that are lyuing now at this presente with their true names as they be called and known by. And although I set and place here but three orders, yet good Reader vnderstande, that all the others aboue named are deriued and come out from the Vpright men and Roges. Concerning the nūber of Mortes and Doxes, it is superfluous to write of them. I could well haue, done it, but the number of them is great, and would aske a large volume.

Vpright men.

Antony Heymer.
Antony Jackson.
Burfet.
Bryan Medcalfe.
Core the Cuckolde.
Christouer Cooke.
Dowsabell skylfull in fence.
Dauid Coke.
Dycke Glouer.
Dicke Abristowe.
Dauid Edwards.
Dauid Holland.
Dauid Jones.
Edmund Dun a singing man.
Edward skiner, alias Ned Skinner.
Edward Browne.
Follentine Hylles.
Fardinando Angell.
Griffyn.
Fraunces Dawghton.
Great John Graye.
George marynar.
George Hutchinson.
Hary Hylles, alias Harry Godepar.

 Harry

Harry Agglyntyne.
Harry Smith, hee dy-
uideth whē he speaketh
Harry Ionson.
James Barnard.
John Byllar.
John Walchman.
John Jones.
John Cedar.
John Braye.
John Cutter.
John Bell.
John Stephens.
John Graye.
John Whyte.
John Rewe
John Borres.
John a Ferdinando.
John Newman.
John Win alias
Williams.
John a Pycones.
John Thomas
John Arther.
John Palmer alias
Tod.
John Geffrey.
John Goddard.
John Gray the great.
John Gray the little.
John Williams the
Longer.
John Hazwod a maker
of weis, hee will take
halfe his bargayne in
hande, & when hee hath
wrought ii. or iij. daies,
he runneth away with
his earnest.
John Peter.
John Porter.
John Appowes.
John Arter.
John Bates.
John Comes.
John Chiles, alias
great Chyles.
John Leuet he maketh
tappes and fausets.
John Louedall a may-
ster of fence.
John Louedale
John Pekes.
John Appowell.
John Chappell.
John Gryffen.
John Mason.
John Humfrey with
the lame hand.
John Stradling with
the shaking head.
John Franke
John Baker.
John Bascakelde.
Lennard tuft.
Long græne.
Laurence Ladd.
Laurence Marshall.
Nicolas wilson.
Ned Barington.
Ned wetheroon.
Ned Holmes.
Phillip Græne.
Robart Grauener.
Robart Gerse.
Robart Kynge.
Robart Egerton.
Robart Bell, brother
to John Bell.
Robart Paple.
Robart Langton.
Robyn Bell.
Robyn Toppe.
Robart Browswerd
he weareth his heare
long.
Robart Curtes.
Richard Brimmish.
Richard Iustice.
Richard Barton.
Richard Constance.
Richard Thomas.
Richard Cadman.
Richard scate good.
Richard Aprice
Richard Walker.
Richard Coper.
Steuen Neuet.
Thomas Bulloke.
Thomas Cutter.
Thomas Garet.
Thomas Newton.
Thomas Web.
Thomas Graye his
toes begonne.
Tom Bovell.
Thomas Wast.
Thomas Dawsō ali-
as Thomas Jacklin.
Thomas Basset.
Thomas Parchant
Thomas Web.
Thomas Awefeld.
Thomas Gibbins.
Thomas Bacon.
Thomas Bate.
Thomas Allen.
well arayd Richard.
William chamborn
William Panell.

William

William morgan.
William Belson.
William Ebes.
William Garret.
William Robinson
William Umberuil
William Dauids.
Will Pen.
William Jones.
Will Powell.
William Clarke.
Water Wirall.
William Browne.
William Grace.
William Pickering.

Roges.

Arch Dowglas a scot.
Black Dycke.
Dycke Durram.
Dauid Dew neuet a counterfet Crank.
Edward Ellys.
Edward Ansley.
George Belberby.
Godman.
Gerard Gybynes, a counterfet cranke.
Harry walles wyth ỹ little mouth.
Humfrey ward.
Harry Mason.
John Warren
John Don wᵗ one leg.
John Elson.
John raynoles Irish man.
John Harrys
James Monkaster a counterfet Crank.
John Dewe.
John Crewe with one arme.
John Brown a great stammerar.
Little Dycke.
Little robyn.
Lambart rose.
Nicholas Adames.
Nicholas Crispin.
Nicholas Blunt, alias Nicholas Genins, a counterfet Crank.
Nicholas Lynche.
Richard Brewton.
Richard Horwod, wel nær lxxx. yeare old he will bite a vi. peny nayle asunder wᵗ his teth & a baudy dronkard.
Richard Crane he carieth a kynchen Co at his backe.
Richard Jones.
Raffe Ketley.
Robert Harrison.
Symond Kyng.
Thomas Paske.
Thomas Bære Irish man.
Thomas Smith with the skalde skin.
Thomas Shawneam
William Carew.
William wastfield.
Wylson.
William Gynkes wᵗ a whyte beard, a lusty & strong man, he runneth about ỹ countrey to seeke worke with a big boy his sonne, carrynge his toles as a dawber or playsterer, but little worke serueth him.

Pallyardes.

Bachford.
Dick Sehan Irish.
Dauid Powell.
Dauid Jones a counterfet Cranke.
Edward Heyward hath his Wyf following him, which faineth the Cranke.
Edward Lewes, a Dummerar.
Hugh Jones,
John Persk a counterfet cranke.
John Dauids.
John Harison.
John Carew.
James Lane, with one

one eye Irish.
Iehu Fisher.
John Dewe.
John Gilford Irish. w̄ a counterfet licence
Laurence with the great legge.
Nicholas Newton carieth a fayned licence.
Nicholas Decase.
Preston.
Robart Lacley.
Robart Tanloke.
Richard Hilton carieth ii. kinchē mortes about him.
Richard Thomas.
Roth garde.
Swanders.
Thomas Edwards.
Thomas Davids.
William Thomas.
William Coper with the harelyp.
Wil Pettet beareth a kichē mort at his back.
wyllam Bowmer.

There is aboue an hundreth of Irish men and women that wander about to begge for their liuing, that hath come ouer within these two yeares. They saye they haue ben burned and spoyled by the Earle of Desmond and report well of the Earle of Ormond.

¶ All these aboue written for the most part walke aboute Essex, Middlesex, Hussex, Surreys Kent. Then let the Reader iudge what nūbers walks in other Shieres, I feare me to great a nūber, if they be well vnderstand.

Here followeth their pelting speeche.

HEre I set before thee good Reader, the leud lousey language of these leutering Luskes, and laysy Lorels, wherewith they bye and sell the common people as they passe through the countrey: whiche language they terme Peddelers Frenche, an vnknowen tounge onely, but to these bold beastly bawdy beggers, and vayne vacabonds, being halfe myngled with Englishe, when it is familiarly talked, and fyrste placing things by their proper names, as an Introduction to this peeuish speache.

Nab
a head.
Nabchet
a hat or cap.
glasyers
eyes.
a smelling chete.
a nose.
gan
a mouth.
a prating chete.
a toung.
Craching chetes
teeth.
Hearing chetes,
eares.
fambles
handes.
a fambling chete
a ring on thy hand.
quaromes
a body.
prat
a buttocke.
stampes
legges.
a caster
a cloke.
a togman
a coate.
a commission
a shirt.
drawers
hosen.
stampers
shoes.
a mofling chete
a napkin.
a belly chete
an apren.
Duds
clothes.
a lag of duds
a bucke of clothes.

a slate.

a flate or flates
a sheete or shetes.
lybbege
a bed.
boung
a purse.
lowze
money.
mynt
golde.
a bozde
a shilling.
halfe a bozde
sixe pence.
flagg
a groat.
a wyn
a penny.
a make
a halfepeny.
bowse
drinke.
bene
good.
benshyp
very good.
quier
nought.
a gage
a quart pot.
a skelo
a cuppe.
pannam
bread.
cassan
cheese.
param
mylke.
lap
butter mylke or whey.
pek
meate.
poppelars
porrage.
ruff pek
baken.
a grunting chete or a patricos kitchen
a pygge
a cakling chete
a coke or capon.
a margery prater
a hen.
a roger or tyb of the butery
a goose.
a quaking chete or a red shanke
a drake or a ducke.
grannam
corne.
a lowing chete
a Cowe.
a bleting chete
a calfe or sheepe.
a prauncer
a horse.
autem
a Church.
Salomon
a altar or masse.
patrico
a priest.
nosegent
a Nunne.
a gyb
a writing.
a Jarke
a seale.
a ken
a house.
a stauling ken
a house that will receyue stollen wares.
a bowsing ken
a ale house.
a lypken
a house to lye in.
alybbeg
a bedde.
glymmar
fyer.
Rome bouse
wyne.
lag
water.
a skypper
a barne.
strommell
strawe.
a gentry cofes ken
a noble or gentleble mans house.
a gyger
a doore.
buse
a dogge.
the lightmans
the day.
the darkemans
the night.
Rome byle
London.
bewse a byle
the countrey.
rome mozt
the Queene.
a gentry cofe
a noble or gentlemā
a gentry mozt
a Noble or gentle woman.
the quier cuffyn
the iusticer of peace
the harmā beck
the Constable.
the harmans
the stockes.
quyerkyn
a pryson house.
quyer cramprynges
boltes or fetters.
tryning
hanging.
chattes
the gallowes.
the bygh pad
the high way.
the ruffmans
the wods or bushes
a smelling chete
a gardē or orchard
crassing chetes
appels, peares, or any other fruit.
to fylche
to robbe.
to nyp a boung,
to cut a purse.
To shower the crampringes
to weare boltes or fetters.
to beue a bough
to robbe or rifle a boweth.
to cly the gerke
to be whipped.
to cut bene
to speake gentle.
to cut bene

whydds.	to see.	to robbe a house.	a woman carnally.
to speake or giue good words.	to bouse, to drinke.	to pygge to ryde.	stow you, hold your peace.
to cutte quyer whyddes.	to maunde to aske or require.	to dup ẏ gyger, to open the dore.	bynge a wasse go you hence.
to geue euil words or euill language.	to stall, to make or ordain	to couch a hogs head to ly downe and	to the ruffian to the Deuill.
to cutte. to saye.	to cante to speake.	to nygle (slepe	the ruffian cly thée.
to towze.	to mill a ken	to haue to dowith	the deuill take thee.

¶ The vpright Cose cateth to the Roge,
The vpright man speaketh to the roge.

Vpright man.

Bene Lightmans to thy quarromes in what lipken hast thou lipped in this darkemans, whether in a lybbege or in the strummell.

Good morrowe to thy bodye, in what house hast thou lyne in all night, whether in a bedde or in the strawe?

Roge.

I couched a hogshead in a Skypper this darkemans.

I layd me downe to slæpe in a barne this night.

Vpright man.

I towze the strummel trine vpon the nabchet & Togman

I see the straw hange vpon thy cap and coate.

Roge.

I say by the Salomon I will lage it of with a gage of bene bouse then cut to my nose watch.

I sweare by the masse I will washe it off wyth a quarte of good drinke, then say to me what thou wilt.

Vpright man.

Why hast thou any lowze in thy bonge to bouse.

Why, hast thou any money in thy purse to drink?

Roge.

But a flagge, a wyn and a make.

But a groate, a penny and a half penny.

Vpright man.

Why, where is the ken that hath the bene bouse.

where

where is the house that hath the good drinke.

Roge.

A bene morte here by at the signe of the praunceer.

A good wyfe here by at the signe of the horse.

Vpright man.

I cutte it is quyer bowse, I bowsd a flagge the last darkmans.

I say it is small and naughty drinke, I dranke a groat there the last night. Roge.

But bowse there abord, and thou shalt haue benship.

But drinke there a shilling, and thou shalt haue very good.

Towre ye, yander is the ken, dup the gyger and maunde that is beneship.

See you, yonder is the house, open the doore, and aske for the best.

Vpright man.

This bowse is as good as Rome bowse.

This drinke is as good as wyne.

Now I tower that bene bowse makes nase nabes.

Now I see that good drinke makes a dronken head.

Maund of this morte what bene pecke is in her ken.

Aske of this wyfe what good meate shee hath in her house.

Roge.

Shee hath a Cacling chete, a gruntinge chete ruff pecke, cassan, and poppelars of yarum.

Shee hath a hen a pygge, baken, chese, and mylke porrage.

Vpright man.

That is benship to our watch.

That is very good for vs.

Now we haue well bousd, let vs strike some chete.

Now we haue well dronke, let vs steale some thing.

Yonder dwelleth a quier cuffen, it were beneship to myll him.

Yonder dwelleth a hoggish and churlishe man, it were very well donne to robbe him. Roge.

Now byng we a wast to the high pad the ruffmans is by

Nay let vs goe hence to the nigh way, the wood is at hand.

Vpright man.

So may we happen on the harmans and clye the Jarke

or to the quierken and skower quiare cramprings and so to trining on the chates.

So we may chaunce to syt in the stockes, eyther be whypped eyther had to prison house, and their be shackeled with boltes and fetters, and then to hange on the gallowes.

Roge.

Gerry gan the Ruffian clye thee.

A torde in thy mouth, the deuill take thée.

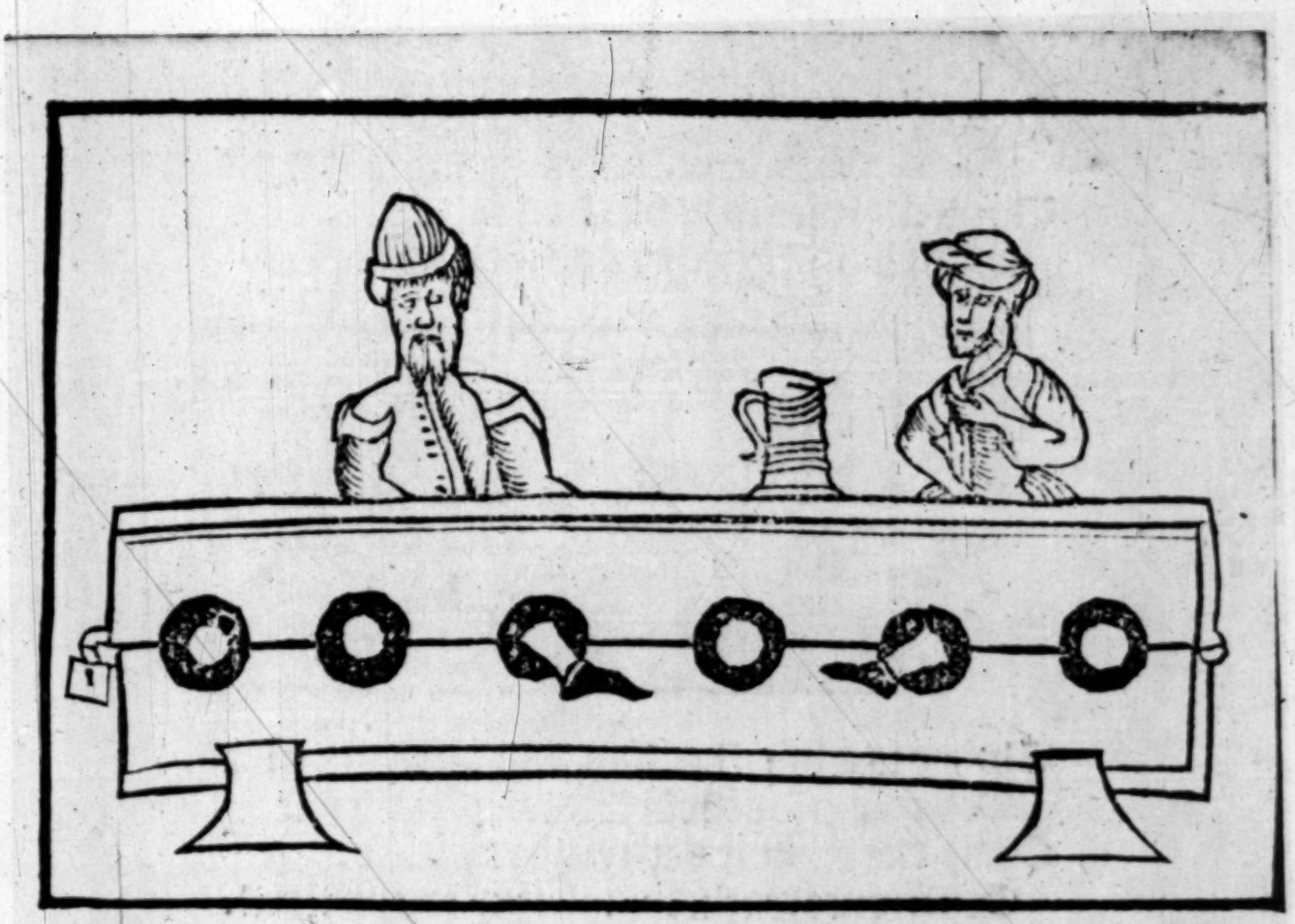
The vpright man.

What stowe you bene cofe and cut benar whyddes and byng we to Rome byle to nyp a bounge, so shall we haue lower for the bowsing ken, and when we byng back to the deuseuyle, we will fylche some duddes of the Ruffinans or myll the ken for a lage of duddes.

What holde your peace good fellowe and speake better wordes, and go we to London to cut a purse, then shal wee haue money for the ale house, and when we come backe againe into the countrey, we will steale some lynuen clothes of some hedge, or robbe some house for a bucke of clothes.

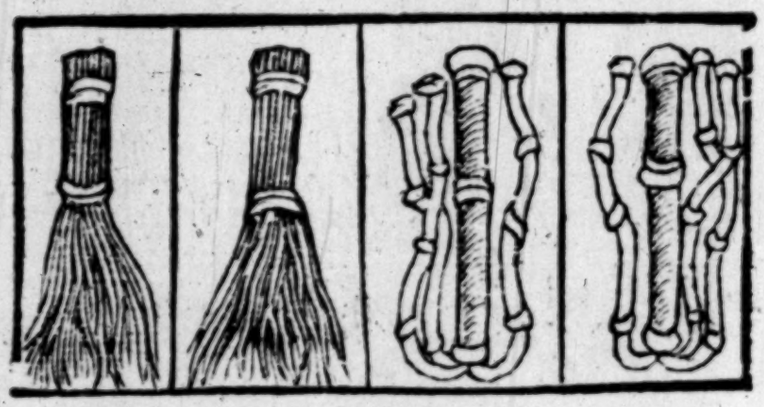
¶ By this little ye may holy and fully vnderstande their vntoward talk and pelting spœch mingled without measure, and as they haue begon of late to deuyse some new termes for certayn things: so will they in time alter this and deuise as euill or worse. This language now being knowne and spreade abroade, yet one thing more I wil add vnto, not meaning to English the same, because I learned that of a shamcles Dore, but for the phrase of speeche I set it forth only.

There was a proud patrico and a nosegent, he toke his Jockam in his faunble, and a wapping he went, he dockt the Dell he prygge to praunce, he byngd a wast into the darkemans, he fylche the Cofe without any fylch man.



A Stockes to staye sure and safely detayne,
Lasy lewd Leuterers that lawes do offend:
Impudent persons, thus punished with payne,
Hardly for all this, do meane to amende.

Fetters or shackels serue to make fast,
Yale malefactors, that on mischief do muse
Untill the learned lawes do quite or do cast
Such subtill searchers as all euill do vse.



A whyp is a whysker that will wrest out blood,
Of backe and of body, beaten right well:
Of all the other it doth the most good.
Experience teacheth, and they can well tell.

Odolefull day, now death draweth nere,
His bitter styng doth pearce me to the harte:
I take my leaue of all that be here,
Now piteously playing this tragicall parte.
Nether strypes nor teachings in time could conuert,
Wherefore an ensample let me to you be,
And all that be present, now pray you for me.

¶ Thus I conclude my bold Beggars booke,
That all eſtates moſt playnely may ſée,
As in a Glaſſe well poliſhed to looke,
Their double demeaner in eche degrée.
Their liues, their language, their names as they be,
That with this warning their myndes may be warmed
To amende their miſdœdes and ſo liue vnharmed.

FINIS.

Imprinted at London by Henry Middle-
ton dwelling in Fleteſtreat at the ſigne
of the Faucon: and are to be ſold
at his ſhop in S. Dunſtones
Churchyard. An. 1573.